Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Castro Eager for Rapprochement With U.S.

BR1412151493 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 13 Dec 93 p 2

[Report on interview with President Fidel Castro by Gianni Mina in Havana; date not given: "The World as Seen From Cuba"]

[Text] Havana—"Politics is the art of the possible, but for us Cubans today, politics is the art of the impossible, the art of saving our social gains, despite the worsening of an immoral economic embargo and after the loss, just three years ago—in 1990—of 80 percent of our trade because of the collapse of socialism in the East European countries. We were forced to be realistic by liberalizing the dollar. However, after so many years of effort and struggle, I still share the thoughts of Simon Bolivar—the forerunner of thinking on Latin American unity—that today's signs will be tomorrow's certainties."

Fidel Castro, the 66-year-old patriarch of the political utopia and diversity that is Cuba, a Caribbean island which unexpectedly became a main player in history and in the ideas of man in the last 34 years, speaks to me slowly with a faith in his ideas that seems out of place in a Cuba now irremediably deprived of the "respectable poverty" that was—until 1989—to its credit in a continent where it is easier to die than to live. In a Havana full of contradictions at the end of 1993, the umpteenth year certain to see "Castro's Final Hour"—as predicted in late 1992 by MIAMI HERALD journalist Openheimer in his successful book—Fidel's certainties contrast with the doubts of those who come from the outside and he often fails to understand how this people is able to maintain its pride and dignity in a situation of decaying quality of life that elsewhere would have surely exploded into violence.

"They still want to convince us," Fidel says vehemently, "that we should completely abandon our ideals, our values, our principles, and our system of living in solidarity with each other, in order to replace it with a model which, in this continent, has brought only despair and produced more mistakes than we have made in our revolution. It is the very people who have made and are making our people suffer through the embargo—or who are conniving with those applying it by avoiding opportunities for trading with us—who would like to teach us how we should live, to demand that we sell or privatize everything, and what model for growth should inspire us. They forget that, for example, on this continent these theories have produced millions of stray children, who are sold in whole or in pieces. It is this human tragedy that brought the greater part of my fellow heads of state from this continent to Bahia to review the failure of neoliberalism and the need—which for them is unavoidable too—to at least reconcile the free market with the welfare state before Latin America becomes a tragedy of biblical proportions."

Castro probably has something against Suarez Gonzalez, the former Spanish minister during the Franco dictatorship and now a member of a centrist group and chairman of the committee of European members of parliament who flew to Havana recently to clear up the EEC's embarrassing contradiction, which, after clearly condemning the embargo against Cuba, realized that Cuba was the only nation in the Caribbean and Latin America with which it did not have cooperative relations.

In the final session, attended by economists and experts as well, Suarez Gonzalez—as if asking forgiveness in Spain, where there are a great many anti-Castroists, for this recognition which was a necessity but did not come easy—in a surprise move once again trotted out the issue of human rights on the island, forgetting that the European Community never denied credit lines and cooperation to all those Latin American nations where—not only under the beam of dictatorships, but also now—thousands of people have disappeared, and where executions outside the law and political assassinations take place daily, as 1992 Nobel Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu recently denounced.

The Drama of Latin America

Suarez Gonzalez was rebutted by Ricardo Alarcon, who for years was the strategist of the Cuban delegation to the United Nations, followed by posts as foreign minister and speaker of parliament, and who Suarez Gonzalez had just lavished with praise. Alarcon brought out the annual report by Amnesty International and asked if anyone would have the decency to read it.

In the evening, the bitter controversy ("Yes, it is true, there is a double standard in our position, but Cuba is a political case that has remained unresolved for years," a left-wing European MP argued, embarrassed) calmed down during the meeting with Fidel, who was very diplomatic in praising links with Spain. So now the Cuban leader prefers not to pursue the diatribe: "This summer, Elizardo Sanchez, one of the those you call a dissident, made a propaganda tour of Europe and the United States. He even attacked us on Miami radio and TV, and then returned calmly home to Havana. And that is supposed to be repression?"

"Nevertheless," I asked Castro, "why, when the United States contrives—as recently happened in the United Nations with the assent of many countries—to ensure that there is a rapporteur for monitoring human rights in Cuba, your Foreign Ministry does not use the weapon of making a comparison with the tragic situation in the rest of the continent, where there are systems of government agreeable to the interests of Europe and the United States."

Fidel shook his head: "You know, Mina, a denunciation of the atrocities being committed in Latin America—often in the name of democracy and freedom—would be endless. There are countless barbarities being committed. Everything is happening. There are death squads, people who have disappeared [desaparecidos],

private guards [guardie bianche] hired by landowners who kill peasants and trade unionists with impunity, and children massacred by the military police. Nothing like that has ever happened in Cuba. I do not even want to make a comparison with what has recently become the reality on this continent. If we analyze the number of people who have disappeared and been killed in Guatemala, Argentina, El Salvador, Brazil, Chile, and Uruguay over the 1970's and 1980's, it is impossible to compare it to any other situation in the world. I, however, prefer to limit myself to expressing our point of view on human rights and I confirm, quite clearly, that no other country in the world has done more than us for the redemption and defense of human dignity and integrity, and I am convinced that—whether you like it or not—it would be difficult to find any sort of comparison in this respect."

Dissent and Human Rights

Fidel seized on my confusion and doubts. "So why are there still dissidents who are persecuted?" I asked.

The Cuban leader did not seem to take the bait of my provocation. "We have to see what is meant by human rights. The first right of a man is the right to survival, to education, to raise children decently, and ensure health care for his family, not to mention the right to culture and sports. Who, in Latin America, using the political models dear to the West, has managed to ensure this right for everyone, as we have done with our socialism, even now at the toughest time in our history? Yes, we are continuing to do it, even in the midst of great suffering.

"So, the real attack on human rights is not—as you think—the imprisonment of counterrevolutionaries whom you call dissidents, the real attack is the attempt to starve a people such as ours, who in the space of 30 years have created a society where there is one doctor for every 231 inhabitants; where there are 300,000 professors and teachers; where the average age is 75, compared to 50 for the rest of the continent; a country where the infant mortality rate is 9.3 per thousand—lower than in Washington, as Hilary Clinton revealed during the election campaign during the controversy surrounding the dismantling of the welfare system undertaken by last Republican administrations under Reagan and Bush.

"We are a country with almost 18,000 doctors abroad helping poorer people and here in Tarara we have treated more than 10,000 children who are victims of the atomic power station explosion in Chernobyl using leading-edge medicine."

The Cuban leader was excited, as happens to him when he takes on these kinds of issues. From a stack of dispatches, telexes, and faxes he pulls out a piece of information: "Can we learn anything from a world that lets 15 percent of the population control 79 percent of global income and in which 77 percent of human beings control only 16.5 percent of world income? A world which lets more than 30 million children die from curable diseases? Who is going to put us in the dock? Who should sit in the dock and who should sit on the prosecutor's bench? Ever since people began talking about freedom, justice, and development, men have been increasingly exploited and oppressed. What justice and what equality has Latin American known in its 200-year search for independence? What about the rest of the world? How can the International Monetary Fund talk about social justice?"

In this Havana full of contradictions in late 1993—where many artists and intellectuals, now that the dollar has been liberalized, follow you to try to sell any type of old manuscript, study, or work, that would not have a market in Italy but which has one in the imagination of those who have undoubtedly suffered from isolation, albeit with dignity—a sensation was caused by "Strawberries and Chocolate," a self-critical, ironic, and sarcastic movie of the time in the 1970's when Marxist fundamentalism highlighted the diversity of Cuban life under socialism, with needless hardship and even the marginalization of homosexuals. The film is by Cuban cinema maestro Gutierrez Alea—a pupil, in his youth, of Zavattini—who directed it, together with the young Juan Carlos Tablo (the man, who some years ago directed the very likeable Plaff [name as published]). It swept the awards at the 15th Festival of New Latin American Cinema. It did not escape anyone's attention, however, that on the jury together with an Oscar winner, Argentinian Luis Puenzo, there was also director Daniel Diaz Gomez, who made "Alice in Wonderland," the ironic and controversial film presented four years ago at the Berlin Festival which was subsequently pulled out of circulation in Havana after being screened for 10 days.

So there is a new, unexpected wind blowing in a situation of social suffering. Fidel did not go into details, but he did say: "Our slow but continuous process of correction began before perestroyka, but few people realized this because it was more convenient to define us as one of Moscow's 'satellites.' Now, however, the Soviet Union no longer exists and we are still here, perhaps because we are moved by our own inner light, at least where ideas are concerned."

"Comandante, but whyever did the Soviet Union dissolve?" I believe Castro has been asked this question dozens of times over the last few years. He has given many different interpretations. On this occasion, however, he replied curtly: "We did not cause the Soviet Union's downfall. It caused its own downfall. It had made mistakes and did not correct them in time. The economy had become more important than man himself." After a few seconds' reflection, he added: "The Western world offered the former Soviet Union a recipe, one which some believe is the only one standing for democracy (a multiparty system, the free market, etc.), and which is the one Europe and the United States happen to like, but in so doing it deprived 80 percent of humanity of hope. Thus, in the Soviet Union, they have destroyed a party, a history, and a nation."

There was an undercurrent of uneasiness in our dialogue, which took us back to a discussion we had last July

during the Sao Paolo Forum, concerning different interpretations not only of the end of communism in the Eastern European countries, but also of the Left's role in our time.

"Comandante, what is your message, for example, to the former Italian and French Communist Parties that, like many other former European left-wing parties, have shown a lot of wariness or mistrust toward Cuba over the past few years, as if an old love affair had come to an end?"

"What is it you want to know?" Castro said in surprise.

"I would like to know whether there is a chance of dialogue being resumed." Fidel was in no doubt: "We are not refusing any form of dialogue which will help clarify the viewpoints of the different sides. It is only natural that many mistakes should be made in this period wrought with problems and traumatic events. For example, the mistake of interpreting reality in Latin America as if you were living in Luxembourg or Holland. You saw for yourself, however, that we met all the Latin American presidents in Bahia late in July. Most of them support neoliberal policies, but this did not constitute an obstacle to pursuing common interests. Despite our differences on certain issues, such as economic development, there are many subjects that we all feel strongly about. Above all, we are interested in coming together, we are interested in working for Latin American unity, and defending common objectives: the fight against protectionism, against unequal exchange, against the overwhelming burden of foreign debt, against poverty, ignorance, insecurity, in addition to defending national sovereignty.

"There are a number of issues on which we can reach an agreement and discuss in the same spirit as at the Fourth Sao Paolo Forum held last July. There were more than 100 different organizations belonging to the Latin American progressive movement, but despite this we found many things in common, we found a unitary language for many of the problems currently confronting our countries. We must establish what the role of the Left's forces must be in our time, particularly if we want this to be a peaceful time. Above all, we Latin Americans must try to unite even if attempts are made to divide us; we must succeed in this because unless we manage to be a united and integrated continent, in the 21st century we will become nations whose independence is merely formal. If we have managed to find points of agreement between countries with different interests (L'UNITA editor's note: Just a few days ago Cuba's traditional friend Mexico signed the Free Trade Agreement with the United States and Canada), why should we not find a way of establishing a dialogue with all European progressive forces, including those who have forgotten the conditions prevailing in our continent?"

"But what do you think of the remorse currently experienced, in one way or another, by many of the former European Communist parties—a remorse that is not experienced even by parties who are heirs to Fascism and Nazism? What do you think of this sense of frustration, this type of anxiety which, for example, despite the tragic histories of some of them, none of the conservative parties experience, not even those who are heirs to Fascism and Nazism?" I asked in provocative fashion.

My Relationship With the European Left

"I believe there is no reason to experience remorse," was Castro's terse reply. "If anything, we should be proud of our historical record in favor of working people, of human progress, of the struggle against colonialism, and in favor of the poor and most deprived people in the world. Whatever its mistakes, whatever exaggerations it may be guilty of, whatever misunderstandings may have tainted the communist movement's history, we cannot but take pride in what we have done for human beings and working people."

This controversial character, who for the past 40 years has been one of history's protagonists, showed unshakable self-confidence. "What is the greatest mistake you and the Cuban Communist Party might regret?" I asked, and in this case too my interlocutor was adamant: "I believe the only mistake we made, occasionally, was to believe in the irreversibility of the revolutionary process that began in Russia in October 1917. I am convinced, however, that, despite the adverse circumstances, the setback suffered by the progressive and revolutionary movement is only a temporary one. The departed doves of the people's movement will return, as will its ideas, old hopes, and former conquests, albeit in a different shape. I am convinced that, although socialism has suffered extremely heavy blows, capitalism—if we consider the situation in most of the world—is experiencing a complete crisis, and I fail to see how it can find a solution to its problems." I tried to press him further: "Comandante, should you not be acknowledging, instead, that you Cubans have let yourselves be dominated by the Soviet model for much too long?"

"I cannot accept this theory and I know this from experience," Fidel replied. "I have never liked copying others, even though I must admit that, up to a certain time, our revolutionary movement did show a very marked tendency to copy the Soviet model slavishly. On the other hand, our revolution could not avoid going through certain inevitable stages such as that of copying certain structures in certain periods. There were things worth copying and others that were negative and that we should have rejected. But I feel no pangs of conscience for having sometimes taken sides or for having perhaps been a subdued interpreter of certain theories or models which came from Moscow or other countries within the socialist bloc. I am saying this because I have often been critical of certain methods and certain strategies. This is on record and can be ascertained by anyone who is intellectually honest. My role, however, was not that of criticizing socialism, but rather, capitalism. My aim was not to fight against the socialist countries, but against the capitalist powers. The socialist countries were our allies

in this fight against imperialism, which was, and still is, an important objective for me."

The Elephant and the Mouse

It was now time to attempt to bring Castro round to consider a number of issues, topics, and debates that are still open within the Italian Left: "The last time you met an Italian Comunist Party [PCI] leader it was [former PCI Secretary] Enrico Berlinguer, a meeting which served the purpose of clearing up and dispelling many misunderstandings, as well as the Italian Communists' presumption that they could teach you how to change things in Cuba and Latin America. Almost 10 years went by before you received the Communist Renaissance delegation. Why?"

"Yes, I met with Berlinguer and we talked for a long time, covered many issues in depth, and clarified many things in a very friendly dialogue, without prejudices or presumption. A friendship was born between us of which I have fond memories."

"Then you had no further contacts with the Italian communist movements."

"I met many of its officials. I do not remember them all because the meetings were sometimes short. Lately I have had talks with representatives of Communist Renaissance, and I am satisfied with these meeting because they showed solidarity with my people, but I would like to invite anyone in the world, whether communist or fomer communist, but who fights for all men to have equal opportunities in life, to meet each other, and to understand each other taking into account the various different situations."

"In Cuba there is currently an unspoken hope that Clinton's inertia on the Cuban issue will soon—following the second UN vote against the embargo on Cuba—turn into a policy of rapprochement, despite the pressure from the economic lobbies, not all of which are convinced anyway of the usefulness of losing out on business in Cuba, where the Spanish, French, Latin Americans, and now the Italians are trying to take advantage of the new economic attitude."

"Here investment is safe," Fidel smiled, "because the only danger for investors could come from a Socialist revolution, but we have already had one here..." He then added, more seriously: "Everyone asks us for courage, steps forward, overtures, but they should ask the United States for this. We have never questioned its existence, but it has questioned and continues to question ours. I said so in Bahia: 'They are the elephant, we are the mouse.' At this juncture we have no initiatives to take, we only want to be allowed to live the way we want."

Last Friday—during the reception following Latin America's only prestigious cinema festival prize awards—an admiring Fidel Castro welcomed [Italian movie director] Gillo Pontecorvo, who was attending the festival with a group of Italian directors and script-writers: "Your film 'The Battle of Algiers,'" he said, "served the cause of truth and Algier's freedom and sovereignty like no other. I hope there will soon be another Pontecorvo capable of making a film which will portray Cuba's suffering with objetive truthfulness."

Foreign Minister Terms Visit 'Very Positive'

PA1512012893 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Dec 93

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Upon leaving the Presidential House after his meeting with Colombian President Cesar Gaviria, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina termed his three-day visit to that country very positive.

Robaina told the 20 reporters who were waiting for him that his visit is a new type of visit as, more important than his presence, he was accompanied by 20 first-rate officials and specialists who met with their Colombian counterparts.

Foreign Minister Robaina stressed that Cuba will not explode due to the world changes but will survive—as in fact it is already surviving—with materials and conditions that are sacred for Cubans.

The Cuban foreign minister argued that the only things that cannot be placed on any negotiating table are sovereignty, independence, and the capacity to speak with one's own voice. We will not go back on the conquests that benefit the people, such as those regarding education, health, and sciences, concluded Roberto Robaina.

Before meeting with President Gaviria, Robaina met with former president Belisario Betancur, who heads the Santillana Foundation.

Describes Visit to Colombia

FL1512023893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] This evening in Santa Fe de Bogota, Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina described his three-day official visit to Colombia as very positive. Robaina made this statement following his second meeting with Colombian President Cesar Gaviria, who was very interested in knowing how the bilateral talks were going. Answering questions for approximately 20 reporters who were waiting for him outside the Presidential Palace, Robaina said that during the talks mutual areas of cooperation and exchange were established. The foreign minister also stressed that the bilateral relations are based on understanding, respect, and mutual benefit.

Regarding the changes underway in Cuba, Robaina said these changes are not being made because some country or specific sector has requested them, but because we are living in a world that has changed substantially and into

which we must reinsert ourselves. However, sovereignty, independence, and the right to speak for ourselves are not negotiable. Robaina added that achievements that benefit the people, such as education, health, and science, will not be set aside.

Trade Possibilities With Colombia Explored

FL1412210793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Telephone interview with Alfonso Mosquina, a reporter of Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional (RCN) in Colombia, by Havana radio reporter Roberto Cabada—live]

[Text] [Cabada] As Radio Rebelde has been reporting, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina Gonzalez heads a delegation that has traveled to Colombia on the occasion of the reestablishment of relations between Havana and Santa Fe de Bogota. The "Exclusive" program has been searching for precise information and the latest details on the second workday of the Cuban delegation in Colombia. We have established communication with RCN reporter Alfonso Mosquina.

Alfonso, good evening from Havana, Cuba.

[Mosquina] Good evening and greetings to all the listeners of Radio Rebelde in Cuba.

[Cabada] Maybe we should get to the heart of the matter. We know the Foreign Minister Robaina met with President Gaviria last night. We also have heard that he met with Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin Posada this morning, as well as with other Colombian government officials.

[Mosquina] We should note that there has been great interest in Colombia with regard to Robaina's visit. Relations between the two countries had been suspended for more than 12 years. After Colombia's announcement of the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba, this is the Cuban Government's first visit to our country.

Foreign Minister Robaina announced many important things during his visit with President Gaviria and Foreign Minister Sanin Posada. He said that Cuba was not only interested in establishing agreements for economic cooperation with Colombia but in extending the possibilities of trade with the private sector. Talking to RCN, Robaina stated that the modification in Cuba's economic policies are being done in complex times. Nevertheless, he stated that [words indistinct] invest, cooperate with the [words indistinct] and asked the Colombian Government to help with Cuba's process of economic transformation.

[Cabada] Alfonso, I have talked to different press organizations and agencies with regard to the Cuban delegation's visit to Colombia and it was revealed that another point could be opened in the free trade agreement; Cuba could be included through Colombia. What do you know about this? What have you heard?

[Mosquina] Evidently, that is one of the more interesting points in Robaina's visit. Colombia is going through a great integration process. Colombia has just signed a free trade agreement with Chile. Earlier this year, a similar treaty was signed with Venezuela, another within the Andean Group which is made up of Ecuador and Bolivia. The latest was the free trade agreement between the Group of Three: Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela. The intention of including Cuba is related to two trade agreements that are currently being negotiated: one with Caricom and the other with Central America. In those two negotiations, headed by Foreign Trade Minister Juan Manuel Santos, the possibility of including Cuba as a (?new) member of the free trade group exists.

[Cabada] Friends, I have just conversed with reporter Alfonso Mosquina from Colombia's RCN. He gave us detailed information on the visit to Bogota by the Cuban delegation, headed by Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina.

Lazo: Receipt of Goods To Depend on Will To Work

FL1412170793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] Politburo member Esteban Lazo Hernandez, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] in Santiago de Cuba Province, attended the inauguration of the first eight organoponic plots in eight districts of the city, highlighting this purpose through a conversation with residents of Santiago where he also spoke on current issues.

[Begin Lazo recording] People better not think that when it is time to distribute goods, everyone will receive equal amounts. If you work more and plow more, your earnings will be greater. If you work less, you will have less. If you work less, you will have fewer products.

If there are goods and there is not enough for everyone, those goods must be for the best. They will be given to the best and you will not receive any. We have to begin getting used to the idea of everyone's receiving according to their work and capacity. That way, people will not be able to ask: Why did he receive this and I did not? We must think about this because here we have people who work very hard, while there are others who do nothing and have more and live better than those who work hard everyday. [crowd cheers]

These are things we need to think about nowadays. We need to evaluate this. This is aimed at defending our fatherland. We must all defend the fatherland. It does not matter if we have loafers because they have always existed. It does not matter if we have detractors because they have always existed.

We can consciously say that we are living in a difficult time when, more than ever, our main enemy is lined up

against us. We are in a political and ideological battle. Therefore, if we are in battle, there cannot be unanimity. We, as revolutionaries and as a majority, must be capable of imposing our will and not allowing the trashy people, the counterrevolutionaries, the worms, and the criminals take over the streets. [end recording]

Caricom Establishes Joint Commission

FL1412131393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] The Cuba-Caribbean Common Market [Caricom] Joint Commission was created this evening in Georgetown, Guyana, with the signing of the official documents by Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas and Caricom Secretary General Edwin Carrington. Cabrisas said that Cuba appreciates Caricom's decision to propose the establishment of an Association of Caribbean States, which is of great importance for regional and subregional integration.

Among the areas of cooperation identified by Cuba and the 13 Caricom nations are those of biotechnology, transportation, culture, information on trade, investments, and development of human resources.

More on Caricom Agreement

FL1512024593 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] The Caribbean Common Market [Caricom] secretary general announced this evening in Georgetown, Guyana, the areas of cooperation between Cuba and the Caricom over the next five years; topics discussed during the first meeting of the joint commission. The cooperation, together with an action plan, includes the areas of: science and technology, particularly the field of biotechnology; disaster prevention plans; tourism; culture; human resources; public health; trade; investment; transportation; and fishing. The Guyanese press described the Cuba-Caricom agreement as historic, the same word used by Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas during the joint meeting.

DPRK Military Delegation Arrives in Havana

FL1412223093 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] A high-ranking DPRK military delegation, headed by Navy Commander Kim In-chol, was officially greeted today at El Cacahual Mausoleum in Havana. In-chol and his delegation flew into Havana a few hours ago on an official visit. While in Cuba, the delegation will be guests of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces. The DPRK delegation will be in Cuba until 25 December. The welcoming ceremony, during which the DPRK military delegation was honored, was attended by DPRK Ambassador to Cuba Kim Sung-yong and other Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] chiefs and officers.

During their stay in Cuba, the DPRK military delegation will meet with high-ranking FAR officers and will visit sites of economic, political, and social interest.

Minfar State Committee Inspects Western Army

FL1412150093 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] A state committee of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [Minfar] began a full inspection of the Western Army, which will run through 20 December. The goal of the inspection is to verify the combat readiness and training achieved by the Western Army in the current period of military instruction, especially in the municipalities of Habana del Este and San Jose de las Lajas.

In San Jose de las Lajas, Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, head of the General Staff of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, visited various areas, including defense tunnels, and inaugurated an extension to the Leopoldito Martinez Hospital and other social projects. Rosales del Toro was accompanied by Candido Palmero and Division General Leopoldo Cintra Frias, both members of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC].

The delegation that visited Habana del Este was headed by Brigadier General Alvaro Lopez Miera. The delegation visited several places related to defense activities. Lopez was accompanied by Politburo member Jorge Lezcano Perez, first secretary of the PCC in Havana City Province.

Report on Defense Commission Activities at Forum

FL1512031793 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Excerpts] The Eighth Science and Technology Forum began today. The Defense Commission heard 97 presentations, which are the result of the Interior Ministry and the Revolutionary Armed Forces' national forums. The presentations showed a qualitative and quantitative leap and this is proof of the strength of the forum movement. During this eighth forum, 25,000 solutions for defense problems were presented, while at the 1992 forum only 6,000 solutions were presented. [passage omitted]

At the Cristino Naranjo Social Center, where the Defense Commission met, the delegates studied topics involving mechanics, chemistry, logistics, and military and social science. Some of the most interesting works presented were: oils produced from Cuban crude and which are used in armored vehicles, the laser pistol used for target shooting, a system to identify people, and the mines that can be used as grenades, designed and built by the Eastern Army.

We also saw new technology such as the rifle for the Mambi sharpshooter and the Furia, a light combat vehicle. These two items are built completely in Cuba. [passage omitted]

Venezuelan Airlines To Adjust Cuban, Dominican Schedules

FL1412163593 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] Local aviation sources revealed today in Caracas that the Venezuelan airlines Viasa and Aeropostal have agreed to reorganize their flights to the Dominican Republic and Cuba so as to avoid a very aggressive trade war.

Osmany Cienfuegos Inaugurates Joint Enterprise Cruises

FL1412145193 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] The Santiago de Cuba cruise ship is a new experience in the sphere of tourism. Osmany Cienfuegos, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, attended the ceremony inaugurating its run.

Under a Bahamian flag, the ship is operated by (Habana Cruces), an enterprise of Italian and other countries operating in Cuba. This is the first time a cruise ship of this class has had a Cuban home port. With departures from Havana or Santiago de Cuba, the ship will call at ports of South Cayo Largo, Cienfuegos, Casilda, Jamaica, and Cozumel.

The Santiago de Cuba has a capacity of 400 passengers. It has 150 cabins, office, cabaret, restaurants, and recreational areas. The Santiago de Cuba will make its first run at dawn on 14 December.

Scheduled Havana Power Outages Hit 50 Hours Per Week

PA1412130493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2121 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Havana, 13 Dec (EFE)—Beginning this week, residents of this city will face more rigorous power restrictions that will increase to some 50 hours a week, with a daily average of eight hours of outages.

According to the weekly newspaper TRIBUNA DE LA HABANA, each day, Monday through Friday, there will be two separate outages in which power will be cut in Havana for a total eight hours. Meanwhile this weekend, power will be out eight hours on Saturday and four hours on Sunday.

After announcing the new power outage schedule, which will be in force through 19 December, the weekly said power outages increased last week because of problems with several generators on the island. The paper also noted that maintenance work is continuing at the Antonio Guiteras generating plant, which is the largest in Cuba, and that the power plant is not expected to return to full capacity until 22 December. The Antonio Guiteras plant is located in Matanzas (center of the island).

Over the past two weeks, certain areas were spared from the drastic cuts in power because of a scheduled international film festival. The power outages, which have affected all provinces in the past few months, reached their peak in August when they rose to 16 hours a day.

Committee on Biotechnology, Pharmaceuticals Hears Projects

FL1412193193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Interview with Marleen Porto Verdecia by reporter Eva Alvarez]

[Text] [Alvarez] Marlene Porto Verdecia is head of the first State Committee of the Biotechnological and Pharmaceutical Industries. She has information on the projects that have been presented and what problems they solve.

[Porto] Two hundred seventy projects representing 13 provinces were presented to the commission. Of these, 80 were preselected and 30 others are being debated. We can say that of these 270 projects, 220 are new products, of which 16 can be generalized for use throughout the nation and 34 are secret.

[Alvarez] All of these have the possibility of being generalized.

[Porto] Yes, all the products having to do with the pharmaceutical and biotechnological industry or the development of new equipment have been registered. All these products have the possibility being produced domestically for export.

Roundup of Politburo Members' Activities 7-10 Dec

FL1412174993

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on the activities of members of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 7 and 10 December.

Carlos Lage is participating in a conference at Havana's Hotel Nacional, entitled "Cuba in the Nineties: Its Reintegration Into the International Economy and the Role of Europe." (Radio Rebelde 1255 GMT 7 Dec)

Jose Ramon Balaguer and Abel Prieto attended the opening of the meeting of European Solidarity With Cuba on which over 270 representatives of solidarity groups from 24 countries are participating. (Radio Rebelde 1230 GMT 7 Dec)

Julian Rizo Alvarez, president of the Provincial Defense Council, participated in National Defense Day activities in Camaguey Province. (Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks 0100 GMT 7 Dec)

Jorge Lezcano Perez participated in a ceremony honoring the Martyrs of the Revolution in Havana City. (Cuba Vision 2320 GMT 7 Dec)

Ulises Rosales del Toro particiated in the Revolutionary Armed Forces Forum of Science and Technology held at the Jose Marti Center in Havana. (Radio Reloj 2030 GMT 8 Dec)

Alfredo Jordan toured the areas affected by last week's storm in Guantanamo Province. He praised the efforts of workers from neighboring provinces in recovery efforts. (Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks 0100 GMT 9 Dec)

Pedro Ross was among the speakers at the closing ceremony of the the third congress of the Latin American and Caribbean Federation of Civial Aviation Workers, which ended with a vigorous condemnation of the blockade imposed on Cuba by the United States. (Radio Progreso 1200 GMT 9 Dec)

Alfredo Jordan participated in a meeting with representatives of the Agricultural, Livestock, and Forestry Workers Union in Havana. (Cuba Vision 0100 GMT 10 Dec)

Ulises Rosales del Toro and Rosa Elena Simeon participated in a ceremony to award outstanding scientists of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces in Havana. (Cuba Vision 0100 GMT 10 Dec)

Jose Ramon Machado Ventura visited several Basic Cooperative Production Units in Ciego de Avila Province. (Cuba Vision 2320 GMT 10 Dec)

Esteban Lazo attended the last session of the year of the Santiago de Cuba Provincial Assembly, which was held on 10 December. (Radio Rebelde 0000 GMT 11 Dec)

Roundup of Economic Activity Reported 9-13 Dec

FL1412160893

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on economic developments in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 9 and 13 December.

Radio Reloj at 2033 GMT on 9 December reports that the French Seine-St-Denis Province Union and Villa Clara Health Workers Union have signed a friendship protocol. Their solidarity will be in the form of shipments of medicines, supplies for schools and unions, and exchange of delegations.

Radio Rebelde at 1800 GMT on 10 December reports that Azotobacter has been applied to 450 miscellaneous crops caballerias, including rice fields, in Matanzas as part of the national program to increase the use of biological fertilizers in substitution of imported chemical fertilizers. Next year's Azotobacter production is projected to be over 1 million liters, which would allow coverage of over 70 percent of the Azotobacter needed for Matanzas crops alone. The development of biological fertilizers is one of the main goals of Matanzas' scientific hub in cooperation with the provincial office of the Cuban Academy of Sciences.

Radio Rebelde adds that despite recent floods, Guantanamo Province coffee growers have not relinquished their goal to harvest 1 million cans of coffee, the highest production ever. Roberto Ramirez, president of Maisi's National Association of Small Farmers, states that 900,000 cans have been delivered to Cubacafe Enterprise and an additional 766,000 cans have been picked.

Radio Reloj at 2032 GMT on 10 December reports that the ship Frank Pais arrived in Cuba on 7 December with a donation from the people and government of Italy of 631 metric tons of vegetable oil and 191 metric tons of canned meat. In a news conference held in Havana, the Italian ambassador to Cuba pointed out that during 1993, Italy has donated 733 metric tons of vegetable oil; 156,000 metric tons of powdered milk; and 191 metric tons of canned meats.

Cuba Vision Network at 2320 GMT on 10 December reports that 19 labor union leaders, who represent important labor organizations in Spain, donated 100 tons of shingles to help with recovery efforts in Guantanamo Province. They also donated $17,000 and 200 kg of medicine.

Radio Reloj at 1507 GMT on 11 December reports that Las Tunas Province has attained an infant mortality rate of 9.6—its lowest ever, thanks in part to the family doctor program.

Radio Reloj at 1417 GMT on 11 December reports that 100 caballerias in central Villa Clara, Cienfuegos, and Sancti Spiritus Provinces have benefited from the application of biological pesticide made from the fungus Trichoderma-SP. This pesticide, produced by regional entomophagous and anthonophagous pathogene reproduction centers, is 80-percent effective.

Radio Rebelde at 1800 GMT on 11 December reports that Italy's donations to Cuba in medicine, food, and other items totaled over $10 million during 1993. Contributions also included supplies and equipment for the electric industry. Italian specialists are working in energy development programs in electricity, as well as in oil prospecting. There are plans to establish businesses and cooperation accords in telecommunications during 1994. This includes significant investments to modernize telephone technology. An intergovernmental accord was recently signed for protection and promotion of investments aimed at increasing the participation of Cuban and Italian businessmen and companies in investments in both countries.

Radio Rebelde at 1000 GMT 14 December reports that the Ministry of the Sugar Industry has built 1,200 homes and repaired another 600 homes this year for workers.

Cuba Vision at 2320 GMT on 13 December reports that seven Basic Cooperative Production Units have been created at the Siboney Agroindustrial plant in Camaguey. In the past harvest, this sugarcane enterprise cut 39,000 arrobas per caballeria. They hope to cut 43,000 arrobas per caballeria in the next harvest.

Radio Reloj at 2030 GMT on 13 December reports that Holguin Province's increased use of horse-drawn carts to pick up solid wastes has saved the province 200 tons of diesel fuel in the current year. Holguin is using 1,100 carts as part of the measures taken during the special period. Windmills have also helped save fuel.

Haiti

'Friends of Haiti' Meet for Second Day

FL1412162393 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Representatives of the four friends of Haiti—France, United States, Canada, and Venezuela—are meeting today for the second and final day on France's initiative to consider means of solving the Haitian crisis. Resigning Prime Minister Robert Malval, who would like to hold an immediate conference of national security, a conference of national reconciliation, addressed the high-level officials on 13 December at the opening of the meeting in camera. France would like for the meeting to lead to the assertion of a common willingness to strengthen the embargo if the military continues to refuse the implementation of the Governors Island accord signed on 3 July between General Cedras and President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. [passage omitted]

Venezuelan Foreign Ministry Supports Conference

FL1412215793 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] The Venezuelan Government has officially approved Prime Minister Malval's project to search for the application of the Governors Island accord through dialogue with all the sectors. At the same time, Venezuela is in favor of strengthening the trade embargo against Haiti if the military which overthrew President Aristide still refuses to relinquish power, according to a press release issued on 13 December by the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry. The Ministry asserts that, in its capacity as a member of the "four friends group", Venezuela has always supported the UN Security Council's resolutions intended to encourage the multilateral actions aimed at returning democracy to Haiti.

It should be noted that Prime Minister Malval's project of a national conference has already received the support of the United States, the UN, and the Vatican, but it has not yet received the support of President Aristide, for whom the agenda of the conference must be defined first; and he must be assured in advance of safety guarantees for the possible participants.

Legislators Oppose Strengthening Economic Sanctions

FL1412215493 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1800 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Several legislators oppose strengthening the embargo as suggested by France. Daly Valet files a report.

[Begin Valet recording in Creole] Several legislators did not approve the question of strengthening the economic sanctions, which France has requested. The legislators, whether from the Alliance, the Parliamentary Cohesion, the Socialist bloc, or the FNCD-bloc [National Front for Change and Democracy], protested strengthening the economic sanctions.

In the Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion, this French initiative is seen as a way to recolonize Haiti. Thus, there are nationalist speeches which reject and condemn France's position on Haiti's crisis.

In the Socialist bloc, what remains a mystery regards the four countries—friends of Haiti. Does Haiti only have four friends? Are the other countries which were not mentioned in this small group Haiti's enemies? Those are questions asked by Socialist Deputy Sorel Jacinthe. Deputy [word indistinct] does not agree with the total blockade requested by France. [passage omitted]

Within the FNCD deputies group, France's initiative found some support in [word indistinct]. Since the failure of the Governors Island accord, the FNCD legislators recognize foreign countries want to widen the crisis, a crisis they still ignore. Several FNCD members have become rather pessimistic about the foreign initiatives. [passage omitted]

It is not only the legislators who are against strengthening the economic sanctions. Prime Minister Robert Malval, before the meeting [word indistinct], had stated that he did not agree with a total blockade of Haiti. Haiti is a poor country which is about to die due to civilian and military intransigence. [end recording]

St. Kitts and Nevis

State of Emergency Lifted

FL1412205393 Bridgetown CANA in English 2018 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, Dec 14, CANA—The St. Kitts and Nevis authorities on Tuesday announced the early lifting of a state of emergency declared December 2.

The state of emergency, declared only in St. Kitts after demonstrators clashed with the police, was to have run 21 days, but was lifted early because of an improvement in the situation here. A dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed 12 days ago was reduced and then lifted last week.

Hundreds of demonstrators threw stones and bottles at the police, buildings and vehicles after a minority coalition government was announced December 2. The coalition, headed by Prime Minister Dr. Kennedy Simmonds, has five of the 11 seats in parliament.

The government on Tuesday announced the appointment of two new advisors to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism and the Ministry of Finance. Former Trade Minister Roy Jones, who lost his seat to newcomer Timothy Harris in the November 29 general elections, has been appointed advisor to the Ministry of Trade. Former Senator Richard Caines takes a similar position in the Ministry of Finance. Caines was a junior minister in the last government.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Tax Reform To Bring Lower Revenues Under 1994 Budget

FL1412193293 Bridgetown CANA in English 1751 GMT 14 Dec 93

[By Corlita Ollivierre]

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, Dec 14, CANA—Vincentians learnt from Prime Minister James Mitchell Monday evening that they will be paying less tax on assessable incomes from the new financial year, starting January 1.

Mitchell, presenting his government's 1994 budget to Parliament, said the tax cuts ranging from two to six per cent would result in a revenue loss of EC4 million dollars (one EC dollar; 37 cents US). The tax cuts relate to earnings above the first 10,000 dollars of income which is tax-free.

Mitchell, the minister of finance, said the changes were one element of a tax reform programme being introduced by his government, with the aim of bringing about "a greater degree of simplicity, equity and fairness" to the tax system.

The 1994 budget envisages total spending of 263.64 million dollars, a drop of almost 21 million dollars on the 1993 figure. Recurrent expenditure was put at 184.59 dollars and capital expenditure at 79.05 million dollars, of which 41.79 million will come from domestic sources. Recurrent revenue was put at 185.99 million dollars.

As for tax increases, there was a two per cent hike on a hotel charge paid by guests, and an unspecified increase in the tax on general and motor insurance premiums written by foreign companies. The latter measure followed the removal of a 20 per cent withholding tax on reinsurance premiums.

"We do not envisage that this increase will result in any increase in premium rates," Mitchell told the House of Assembly. "On the contrary, in view of the reduction of the witholding tax, there may be scope for a reduction of some of the rates."

The budget was Mitchell's last before his New Democratic Party (NDP) seeks renewal of its mandate in general elections expected in the first half of the new year.

Mitchell announced plans for a "complete reorganising" of the government's Inland Revenue Department. Aspects include improving the department's premises, computerisation of operations, and putting together training programmes for employees. The department is planning to introduce an installment schedule for companies and traders to make tax payments.

Mitchell said the government was moving to eliminate a three per cent export tax on bananas, beginning with a one per cent reduction in January. The remaining two per cent will be lifted, he said, only if there is evidence that farmers are benefitting directly from the reduction. "We want to ensure...that the benefits from the removal of this tax go directly to the farmers and not be consumed in management or transportation costs," Mitchell stressed.

Given current prices and levels of production, the St. Vincent Banana Growers Association stands to save some 600,000 dollars as a result of the measure, an association official said.

Mitchell referred to declining revenues for the banana industry in the four Windward Islands, partly due to the depreciation of the British pound on the currency markets. Britain is the principal export market for St. Vincent and other Windward Islands bananas.

Mitchell said up to September, St. Lucia had lost 31 million dollars in banana revenues, Dominica, 18 million dollars and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 25.8 million dollars, when compared to the same nine-month period last year.

Trinidad and Tobago

New Political Party Formed

FL1412205193 Bridgetown CANA in English 1840 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec 14, CANA—The expelled general secretary of Trinidad and Tobago's ruling party, Nello Mitchell, has formed a political party—the Republic Party of Trinidad and Tobago.

The party, with its symbol the palm tree in a triangle, was registered with the Elections and Boundaries Commission on Monday. The party will be officially launched on January 19.

Mitchell, a former journalist, was expelled from the People's National Movement (PNM) ealier this year when he was found "guilty of such gross disrespect to the legitimate authority of the central executive and the general council, which is inimical to the interest of the movement".

Salinas Appoints Silva Herzog New Tourism Minister

PA1412222393 Paris AFP in Spanish 2119 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Dec (AFP)—The Mexican Presidency has announced that Jesus Silva Herzog, former finance minister and ambassador to Spain, was appointed new tourism minister today, to replace Pedro Joaquin Coldwell, who resigned to join the ruling party's executive committee.

Silva Herzog, who is 58 years old, was one of the country's most famous finance ministers. He was removed from that post in 1986 during the administration of former President Miguel de la Madrid in what analysts considered then to be part of a succession struggle with current President Carlos Salinas.

Since then, Silva Herzog held the posts of director of the Latin American Monetary Studies Center and ambassador to Spain. In recent months, he was invited by center-left opposition members to run as presidential candidate against the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which has been in power for 64 years.

The rumors that Silva Herzog might leave the PRI have been squashed by his entry into Carlos Salinas' administration, considered by observers to be his rival during the Miguel de la Madrid administration.

Chamber of Deputies Approves 1994 Revenue Budget

PA1412222693 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0445 GMT 14 Dec 93

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] Today, the Chamber of Deputies plenum approved the national revenue draft bill for fiscal year 1994 with 245 votes in favor and 20 against. Thus the Federal Government has been authorized to collect 309.039 billion new pesos through various taxes. For the second consecutive year, no extraordinary revenues have been included in the budget.

The bill authorizes the Executive Branch, through the Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit, to negotiate, obtain, and authorize credits, loans, and other forms of public credit, including the issuance of bonds, for a maximum of 16.250 billion new pesos of net foreign debt to finance the 1994 national expenditures budget.

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 1405 GMT on 14 December transmits a similar report stating that, according to legislative sources, the Revenue Law for 1994 includes collections for approximately $100 billion and a foreign debt of $5 billion.

The report also states that the budget was approved with the votes of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction Party, and the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution. The legislators of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) and the Popular Socialist Party voted against the revenue draft bill, and the National Action Party legislators abstained.

The AFP report adds that a spokesman for the PRD criticized the high level of indebtedness approved by the PRI and its allies and asked: "If the budgets for income and spending are balanced, why do they want to subject the country to further indebtedness?"]

Roundup of Economic Developments Through 14 Dec

PA1412180993

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Mexican economic developments monitored through 14 December. Source is cited in parentheses following each item.

Foreign investment picked up by the Mexican stock exchange reached $43.02859 billion in November 1993, a 12.76 percent increase over the previous month, financial sources have indicated. Stock market analysts believe the increase in foreign investment in November was due to favorable expectations created in the wake of the approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement by the U.S. Congress. Other factors that led to an increase in foreign investment were the Institutional Revolutionary Party's nomination of its presidential candidate and the presentation of the government's general criteria for 1994 economic policy. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1210 GMT 8 Dec 93)

Inflation in Mexico reached 0.4 percent in November, the lowest in 22 years, according to the Banco de Mexico. The cumulative inflation rate for 1993 was 7.19 percent. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1631 GMT 10 Dec 93)

Mexican Petroleum (Pemex) has announced that starting this month it will stop importing natural gas and will become an exporter of this fuel, a Pemex spokesman has informed. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 0245 GMT 11 Dec 93)

New minimum wages for 1994 have been established. Basilio Gonzalez, president of the National Minimum Wage Commission, said there will be a 7 percent minimum wage increase which will take effect on 1 January 1994. The increase was agreed upon by labor, government, and business representatives. (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 11 Dec 93)

The Mexican toy industry is facing a serious crisis due to both economic opening up and contraband, which have forced the shutdown of 175 companies in the last six years, according to the Mexican Toy Industry Association (AMIJ). According to Helios Aguiluz, AMIJ president, toy imports will total some $400 million in 1993, comprising 76 percent of the national market. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1559 GMT 14 Dec 93)

Guatemala

URNG Leader Monsanto on Political Situation

PA1412192093 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1102 GMT 12 Dec 93

[By Armando Ramirez]

[Text] Mexico City, 12 Dec (NOTIMEX)—A guerrilla leader revealed today that the essence of the confrontation between the Legislative and Executive Branches of Guatemala is the struggle that economic sectors are waging around the sale of important state enterprises. In an interview with NOTIMEX, Jorge Soto, known as Pablo Monsanto, a member of the General Command of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG], said that the dispute is about how the government of Ramiro de Leon Carpio favors four families that export agricultural products.

In September, de Leon Carpio demanded the resignation of Guatemalan Congress deputies. The confrontation that ensued was considered ended following a series of constitutional reforms approved in mid-November.

The guerrilla leader said that the Gutierrez, Bosh, Botran, and Arenales families hold the economic power in this Central American country and are pressing the government to privatize the National Electrification Institute [INDE] and the Guatemalan Telecommunications Enterprise, among other enterprises. INDE, whose assets are estimated at $5 billion, could be sold for $1 billion. The same would happen to enterprises like Railroads of Guatemala, he said.

The URNG leader said that the conflict arose because sectors represented in the legislative body also want to participate in the apportionment, which is what the plan to dissolve Congress was trying to avert. As the URNG leader sees it, the crisis is far from over because the fate of the de Leon Carpio administration will be defined by the January 1994 referendum and by congressional elections in March 1994. The rebel leader said: "Today more than ever there is the possibility of a coup in Guatemala because of the precarious situation in which the chief of state has placed himself for not having made timely decisions."

Monsanto, general commander of the Rebel Armed Forces, one of the organizations that comprise the URNG, said that negative results in the referendum and in elections for deputies could spur the military into deciding to overthrow the president.

Monsanto described de Leon Carpio as hesitant and as not having the ability to make decisions, which has led him to a weak position after less than six months in government and to isolation from economic and Army sectors and popular organizations. Monsanto said: The chief of state was unable to set in motion the privatization program or to create the political stability the Army needs to launch an offensive against the rebels. The guerrilla commander said that the Guatemalan people are disappointed and frustrated because the hopes that installing the human rights ombudsman in the Presidency had aroused were dashed, and they no longer want him as chief of state.

Monsanto said that the agreement on constitutional reforms that were approved by the deputies is just a temporary solution, not a solution to the institutional crisis generated by the Guatemalan president's demand that the legislators resign. Monsanto said that most of the changes to the Constitution are aimed at paving the road for the privatization of important state enterprises by means of a reform of the national monetary system.

Monsanto thinks that the reduction of legislators' terms—the total number of which will be 92 not 116, as it was before—and the nomination of deputies by civic committees and not by parties—which will occur for the first time—could have a significant political impact on the country. Monsanto said it is necessary that reforms to the Constitution be the product of a negotiations process, as the Mexico agreements establish. The URNG commander discarded the possibility of reinitiating negotiations in the near future with the de Leon Carpio administration, although right now there are consultations at the United Nations to analyze the issue and an agenda for an eventual preliminary meeting.

Monsanto said that one of the most difficult issues in the negotiations is that of the systematic violation of human rights in Guatemala because of the government's refusal to form a truth commission and to install international verification mechanisms. Several members of the Army High Command are responsible for crimes, and they would be affected by any serious investigation of their participation in massacres conducted by the military, he said. The guerrilla commander referred to Defense Minister Mario Enriques as the secretary of former President Carlos Arana Osorio, known as the Jackal of the East because of his responsibility in killings in Zacapa Department at the end of the 1960's. Monsanto said that Deputy Defense Minister Julio Otzoy is responsible for the 1978 massacre of peasants in the town of Panzos, in the northwestern department of Alta Verapaz. Monsanto also referred to the case of Army Chief of Staff General Luis Quilo Ayuso, who is believed to have been involved in the 1988 massacre in El Aguacate, in the central department of Chimaltenango.

Monsanto warned of the existence of a memorandum from the military intelligence service in which it is proposed that troops be trained in death squad operations, something that would mean the revival of what he called "institutionalized terror."

The stagnation of the negotiation process has generated concern in the international community, the URNG leader said. He pointed to the U.S. position of granting visas to rebel delegates to travel to Washington and New York, something done in spite of protests from the Guatemalan Government.

In 1971 Monsanto assumed the general command of the Rebel Armed Forces, which forms part of the URNG, a guerrilla alliance he has been leading since 1982.

Roundup of Economic Developments Through 14 Dec

PA1412201693

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Guatemalan economic developments monitored through 14 December 1993. Source is cited in parentheses following each item.

Willy Zapata, president of the Central Bank of Guatemala, has outlined the 1994 monetary, exchange, and credit policy that seeks to maintain price stability, foster orderly economic growth, and hold inflation to 8 percent. To achieve this goal, it was agreed to gradually reduce the "bank reserves" by 1.5 percent, as of 1 February. Zapata also explained that the Central Bank of Guatemala will not intervene to pressure the exchange rate. (Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1849 GMT 12 Dec 93)

Honduras

Armed Forces Chief on Changes in Military

PA1412142493 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Report on interview with Armed Forces Commander General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir by unidentified reporters on 11 December in Tegucigalpa]

[Text] General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir, commander of the Honduran Armed Forces, made important remarks on 11 December during the celebration of the Army's 168th anniversary. He referred to subjects of particular importance for Honduras. Some people keep saying that the Armed Forces should reduce the number of their personnel or at least direct their activities to other areas. These opinions could be interpreted as a campaign against the institution. In turn, we questioned Gen. Discua about this.

[Begin recording] [Discua] [words indistinct] out of respect for the Honduran people and the institution, I wish to speak clearly once and for all. The Armed Forces have never opposed (?reorganization) and structural changes. We are aware of the need for this. Nevertheless, we must make changes naturally and professionally and not for personal gain or profit. The institution is aware of the need for change, and it admits that change must take place. Scorn and bad jokes, however, are out of the question. The matter should be treated seriously. Let me repeat: Out of respect for the Honduran people, we are and will always be willing to make changes.

As for the police, this is being discussed. We have met with various sectors, which will express their opinions in due time. The matter should not be dealt with politically.

[Reporter] It also has been said that the police should be placed under civilian authority. Is there any opposition to this?

[Discua] The president of the Republic has clearly expressed his opinion in his speech. I wish to make clear, however, that I do not want to enter into useless arguments through the media. I am serious and prefer to talk things over with the right people at the right time to avoid creating a monster that later cannot be controlled. The police should be a national, permanent, apolitical, and professional institution fully at the service of the Honduran people.

[Reporter] Gen. Walter Lopez says there are rumors about this already.

[Discua] As I have said, we talked with the president-elect in private. We are living in a time when there must be changes. We have never opposed change. Nevertheless, we do oppose making rash, unplanned changes. Changes must be studied carefully for the good of the Honduran people.

[Reporter] Does this mean you agree with handing the police over to civilian authority after a certain period of time?

[Discua] There must be a process. There have been examples in other countries where similar processes have been initiated, and I believe they have had regrettable experiences. It will take years for the Honduran police to become fully aware of their role in Honduran society. This cannot happen overnight.

As for violence, it is not solely up to the police to stop crime. You saw two policemen killed yesterday. Yet no one has reacted. It is as if policemen are not human beings; instead, they appear to be extraterrestrials.

These policemen were good people. They died in the course of duty, and yet no one has said anything. You see how policemen risk their lives by confronting well-prepared criminals. We have open borders. We deal with organized crime—something we did not have in the past. Because of the problems experienced in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Guatemala, we must deal with international car-theft rings and more sophisticated types of crime. The police also are better trained because we have academies. Everyone seems to think crime prevention is solely the responsibility of the police, but everyone must do his own part. Parents should chastise their children when they commit petty offenses. This is everyone's problem, not just the problem of the Armed Forces.

[Reporter] Does this mean that the wave of violence shaking the country will not diminish?

[Discua] I doubt it. In the United States, entire towns have armed themselves and this has created additional problems. We still have not reached the crime level of other countries. I think the situation here can still be controlled. Nevertheless, the positive actions of the police go unseen. They are never publicized. Only the

bad things receive publicity. People behave like that. The police, as an institution closely associated with the population, will always be misunderstood, as happens everywhere else in the world.

[Reporter] Will the fact that there is no more war in Central America lead to a reduction in the number of Armed Forces members?

[Discua] I expected such a question. It is necessary to delve deeper into the sociopolitical nature of the state. The state never has enemies; it only has antagonists. There are state interests. Honduras must be prepared and know exactly what is good for it. There are national objectives and interests, which is something very few people understand. This lack of understanding, however, does not mean they do not exist. Obviously, we cannot deny there are soldiers and guerrillas on the other side. This is not what we are talking about. Let us bear in mind that each state projects its interests onto other states. Very few people appreciate this, but we who study Central America's geopolitical strategy can and do appreciate and understand this concept.

[Reporter] Can your words be interpreted to mean that you agree to make changes in the Armed Forces but not to reduce the number of their members?

[Discua] Such an idea must be studied carefully. [end recording]

Nicaragua

Army, Police Control Airport Amid Bomb Rumors

PA1512011493 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0022 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Managua, 14 Dec (DPA)—Specialized security police forces and the EPS [People's Sandinist Army] tonight controlled access to the Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport in Managua due to the possible existence of a terrorist bomb on a passenger aircraft.

Radio Ya reported that the police used specialized equipment to check out an aircraft owned by Aviateca, a Guatemalan airline, while access to the terminal was barred.

Another report states that there was no explosive device but it was merely a training exercise by EPS special antiterrorist brigades. "It is just a training exercise by a special brigade," some airport government officials stated while tension mounted around the airport. Confusion began to spread throughout the airport, and several terminal telephones went out of order.

Military authorities have not yet provided an official explanation clarifying the two reports on the incident. A presidential source told DPA that the incident was due to an undetermined problem with an Aviateca airplane.

UNO Asserts Position on Assembly, Protests Budget

PA1412201393 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Report on document read by the UNO assembly faction during the Legislative Assembly session in Managua on 13 December; document is dated 29 November 1993; from the "Five O'Clock Sharp" newscast]

[Text] UNO's [National Opposition Untion] faction in the Assembly—from which the Christian Democratic Union [UDC] has split—said it will not participate in the presentation, debate, or approval of laws, given that the current leadership is illegal and illegitimate. UNO noted that Executive Agreement 341-92 issued by the president of the Republic on 29 December 1992 violates several constitutional articles, including the separation of powers, while illegally and arbitrarily dismissing the former Legislative Assembly's leadership. Therefore all current assembly activities are null and void.

UNO indicated that the 1994 budget draft bill has serious flaws, according to the Constitution and budget regulations. There is no [words indistinct] exposition, presenting an assessment of the budget policy [word indistinct], the logic of the year's economic plan, the tax policy—within the context of the economic program—the estimates and analysis of the revenues from diverse sources, and spending, according to their distribution. It does not provide a rational explanation of each government institution's program nor of the projects to be implemented.

There are no—hear this well—there are no details on the sale of Sandinist People's Army [EPS] helicopters and weapons or the destination and use of the revenues generated by these sales. Even though the government continues to illegally privatize state assets and companies, information is not provided on revenues generated by these sales nor the destination and use of the same.

There is no information on investment and spending budgets for autonomous and public service institutions like INE [Nicaraguan Institution of Energy], INAA [Nicaraguan Aqueducts and Sewage Institute], Telcor [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute], and so forth. These budgets must be presented even though they need not be approved by the Legislative Assembly. Likewise, the companies assigned under the EPS do not report their incomes. There is no information on the amounts and use of the funds generated by companies under budgets like those of the EPS and others. These revenues should be turned over to the Finance Ministry to be included in the national budget.

The Legislative Assembly has not been advised on the manner in which the law requires the transfer of budget allocations and credits. An analysis of the 1994 budget indicates that under the personal services allocations of each ministry, the corresponding breakdown per public official or government employee is not provided. The

226 million cordobas earmarked for the Defense Ministry and the 220 million cordobas for the Government Ministry represent 16 percent of the national budget. The sums earmarked for the three state branches—Legislative, 25 million cordobas; Judicial, 45 million cordobas; and Electoral Branch, 45 million—do not represent more than 26 percent of the militarized ministries. This demonstrates this government's political inclinations.

UNO concludes by saying: We wanted to establish the position of the UNO faction as follows: It is impossible to fight corruption with a small budget [words indistinct] the Comptroller General's Office. The Presidency's publicity and propaganda budget should be reduced drastically as it is excessive and unwarranted, taking into account the difficult economic situation this nation is experiencing. The EPS budget should be reduced and the budget earmarked for the Education Ministry should be increased, as teachers' salaries violate concepts of human dignity.

The Presidency Ministry's 8-million-cordoba budget for confidential expenses, maintained without controls, is distributed, among other things, to buy consciences, and corrupt the balance of power and political institutions.

Issued in Managua on 29 November 1993

[Signed] UNO assembly faction

Roundup of Economic Developments Through 14 Dec

PA1412183793

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Nicaraguan economic developments monitored through 14 December. Source is cited in parentheses following each item.

The Norwegian Government's commitment to continue sending aid to Nicaragua was confirmed by the director of the Norwegian Cooperation Development Agency. The aid will be used for the promotion of exports, power production, fishing, the election process, and human rights. Some 70 million Norwegian kroner in aid to Nicaragua is expected to be approved by parliament by mid-December. An additional 93 million Norwegian kroner in aid for Nicaragua is available outside the governmental program. (Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Dec 93)

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) will grant more than $4 million in nonrefundable loans for the Nicaraguan health sector, small businesses, and the implementation of a national system for public investment. The agreement was signed by Nicaraguan Economy Minister Pablo Pereira and IDB representative Joel Riley. (Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Dec 93)

Argentina

UK Extension of Falklands Fishing Zone Accepted

PY1412204293 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1812 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Dec (NA)—Argentina has accepted the United Kingdom's extension of its fishing zone to the west of the Malvinas Islands so as to enable the Kelpers to reach the fishing quota assigned to them in the agreement recently signed between the two countries.

This agreement was signed last November by Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella and Great Britain's secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, Douglas Hurd. It provides for an Argentine squid quota of 220,000 metric tons, while the Malvinas Islands' quota is at 150,000 metric tons.

The Argentine Foreign Ministry has issued a communique which states that "in view of the dire financial straits the Malvinas Islands inhabitants are in" due to this agreement, the British Government "has recently voiced the need to include the exclusion zone—established in 1990 by common agreement, and effective until 26 December 1993—in the maritime area where the islanders may fish for the 150,000 tonne quota established by the agreement."

The communique goes on to add that "this need arises because the current system makes it extremely difficult for the islanders to reach their full quota because of the estimated increase in Argentina's catch."

The communique notes that "considering that Argentina does not seek to create economic problems for the islands, and that this consideration does not modify the squid quotas established for the 1994 season, the Argentine Government is considering the possibility of reaching an agreement with the British Government that is by no means detrimental to its interests in the subject."

The British decision to enlarge its fishing zone is underpinned by the Kelpers' interest in offering more advantageous conditions in the sale of fishing licenses, as fishing is the mainstay of the Malvinas Islands' economy. The United Kingdom will thus extend the fishing zone under its control around the islands from 150 to 200 miles by the end of the year. Moreover, this extension toward the fishing zones (Fishery Interim Conservation Zone, FICZ; and Falkland Outer Conservation Zone, FOCZ) practically coincides with the area in which the Kelpers are prospecting for oil.

Bolivia

President, Foreign Minister Comment on Frei's Election

PY1412155693 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] The election of Eduardo Frei as Chilean president has aroused optimism, but also caution among Bolivian authorities such as the president of the Republic, the foreign minister, and other political leaders. Undoubtedly, there is new hope in this new period that Chileans will begin.

[Begin President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada recording] I do not want to predict anything. It is necessary to be prudent and very careful. Nevertheless, I congratulate him and I wish the new Chilean president much luck. And I hope that we will have the great satisfaction, the great honor, of recovering [words indistinct] our relations on the path of justice and solidarity. [end recording]

There is something interesting in the relationship between the two presidents—the Bolivian president, an incumbent already; and the Chilean president, who has just been elected. The two of them already know each other. They met in Santiago de Chile. Bolivian Foreign Minister Antonio Aranibar talked about this encounter:

[Begin recording, in progress] ... agreement with Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle and, as the entire country already knows, he was a candidate, one of the candidates who met President Sanchez de Lozada on the occasion of our visit to the seventh Rio Group Summit. And we carefully took note of the remarks President-elect Eduardo Frei has made on Bolivia and his decision and willingness to contribute to Bolivia's outlet to the world. [end recording]

The foreign minister said this sentence represents a good omen, especially for Bolivians.

Chamber of Deputies President Guillermo Bedregal, who is also a former Bolivian foreign minister, agreed with the current foreign minister:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Frei's initial remarks are interesting, aren't they?

[Bedregal] Absolutely attractive. It represents a new, a different, belief. And, of course, this must motivate us to think calmly, overlooking all that bitter aftertaste that we still have in our hearts, caused by a tremendous historic injustice. Nevertheless, the truth is that this issue is heading toward a sovereign, free, useful outlet with territorial integrity that is one of the points that must be discussed, without any type of dogmatic stances.

[Unidentified reporter] Thank you. [end recording]

The president of the Republic ended his talk with journalists by pointing out that Frei's election represents good news for Bolivia.

Brazil

General Thinks Current 'Commotion' May Force Intervention

PY1412152793 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Dec 93 Section 1 p 9

[Article by Clovis Rossi]

[Text] The Army believes Brazil is living in a time of "commotion," which precedes that of "convulsion," and that if this stage is reached, the Armed Forces will be forced to intervene.

This analysis was made by Division General Gleuber Vieira during a four-hour meeting on 29 November at the so-called "Fort Apache," the Army Ministry headquarter in Brasilia. The meeting was attended by 11 businessmen (most of them presidents of entrepreneurial groups) and almost 20 high-ranking officers.

Army General Benedito Onofre Bezerra Leonel, Army chief of staff, was the meeting's coordinator.

The information about the meeting and the evaluation of the fact that the country is in a state of "commotion," but not "convulsion," were obtained by FOLHA DE SAO PAULO from one of the participants and then was confirmed by General Gilberto Serra, the Army Ministry's spokesman.

Despite the grimness of the evaluation, they made it clear that the Army does not intend to interfere in the institutional scenario. Serra expounded an identical position when he spoke to FOLHA DE SAO PAULO about the corruption scandals: "We, the military, have the same feelings as the population, but we are convinced that the problems are emerging and being resolved in the appropriate spheres."

Notwithstanding, the general cannot hide the Armed Forces' lack of satisfaction regarding budget matters: "The Armed Forces budget is much lower than the budgets of other armed forces. We have already reached our point of no return," the Army's spokesman said.

According to Serra, the meeting's objective was "discussing matters of interest to the Army." The revision of the Constitution was the focal meeting's point, and the chair was given to Gen. Gleuber Vieira, who is the Army's coordinator of the military proposals that will be sent to the Congress that will revise the Constitution. The rank of division general comes immediately before that of Army general, which is the highest rank.

But and because it was unavoidable, an evaluation was made of the situation in which Vieira mentioned the stage of "convulsion." From what Serra told FOLHA DE SAO PAULO, Gen. Bezerra Leonel made "a quick review of the overall situation," more or less along the same lines as his 9 December address to the recently promoted general officers.

Among others, the following businessmen participated in the meeting: Albano Franco, president of the National Industrial Confederation; Carlos Eduardo Moreira Ferreira, president of the Sao Paulo State Industrial Federation; Antonio Ernesto de Salvo, president of the National Agricultural Confederation; Guilherme Afif Domingos, president of the National Confederation of Commercial Associations; Clesio Andrade, president of the National Transport Confederation; and Jorge Gerdau Johannpeter, a type of coordinator of the business group made up of Laerte Setubl and Felix Bulhoes (White Martins).

According to Serra, two topics were discussed on the specific matter of the revision: the position the Armed Forces will have in the Constitution, and obligatory military service.

Government Leader Resigns; New Minister Sworn-In

PY1412235093 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] Deputy Roberto Freire, government leader in the Chamber of Deputies, today submitted his resignation to President Itamar Franco, who accepted it.

The resignation was submitted today during the ceremony to install new Social Security Minister Sergio Cutolo, which took place at the Gloria Hotel, where President Franco is staying. Franco accepted his resignation, but asked Freire to remain in his post until he can find someone to replace him as government leader in Congress.

Freire said he does not plan to run for office in the next elections. He also announced that he would continue to defend the governability of the country from his party, the PPS [People's Socialist Party]. He added that despite leaving the government he would not carry out any opposition and would support the approval of the economic program submitted by Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

In addition, former Social Security Minister Antonio Britto said that he plans to run for governor of Rio Grande do Sul in the 1994 elections. But according to President Franco's advisors, who attended the ceremony for installing the new social security minister, Britto is also a strong candidate for becoming the government leader in the Chamber of Deputies.

The ceremony in which Britto will hand over the ministry to new Minister Sergio Cutolo will be held in Brasilia at 1000 tomorrow.

Background to Resignation

PY1512005293 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE S.IO PAULO in Portuguese 13 Dec 93 p B3

[Article by Joao Bosco Rabello]

[Text] Brasilia—The relationship between the most sensitive government sectors and the government leader in the Chamber of Deputies, Roberto Freire (PPS-PE) [People's Socialist Party—Pernambuco State], is getting more difficult every day. The complaint is the same, from the military to Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso: Freire refuses to in any way sacrifice his own personal or doctrinaire convictions in favor of a government plan or strategic measure, no matter how

transient these convictions may be. Freire's friendship with President Itamar Franco, however, prevents his colleagues from taking concrete initiatives. Nobody is risking calling for his replacement, although many yearn for it. An unidentified minister commented: "He is like a cat. Every time he appears to be leaving, he reappears with new strength."

The recent rift between Freire and Fernando Henrique, reflected in the submission and approval of the draft amnesty for public servants dismissed by [former President Fernando] Collor, has generated more dislike for Freire, who is increasingly considered a leader only of himself, whose survival is possible only because of the difficulties Franco would have in dismissing him. Another minister commented: "They fought for the same causes in Congress."

Freire was considered a dead man when his campaign for the dismissal of former Minister Henrique Hargreaves resulted in the loss of an intimate friend of Franco's, Ruth Hargreaves, sister of the former minister, who had backed Freire's appointment as leader. Although Ruth remained in the government, Freire also kept his post.

The argument Freire used to justify his actions for the urgent approval of the amnesty draft for public servants did not convince any of his opponents in government. The original draft proposed a partial amnesty, reserved for very special cases. But Freire allowed the amendment of the draft, broadening the benefits to include even those servants who had advantageously negotiated their dismissals.

Right now Freire is experiencing the most critical moment so far due to his public clash with the finance minister. In the government sector's opinion, Freire opposes the Franco government's only concrete and sound initiative, that is, the economic stabilization program—something more important than he and the finance minister himself. Fernando Henrique has already warned he would ask the president to veto the amnesty draft. If his request is honored, all that will be left for Freire to do is to resign, thus sparking a crisis.

This is why Pedro Simon (PMDB-RS) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party for Rio Grande do Sul], government leader in the Senate, is trying to postpone voting on the draft as a means to delay the conflict. This will allow the Senate to amend the draft proposal, which will then have to be returned to the Chamber of Deputies to be reviewed. By then Congress will have made a decision about the FHC2 [Fernando Henrique Cardoso-2] plan, and Freire will have gained new strength.

Chile

Foreign Minister: No Diplomatic Ties With Bolivia Yet

PY1412173493 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 1 Dec 93 p C2

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma on 30 November reaffirmed that the Chilean Government believes that relations with Bolivia are currently in a good phase and that as long as they are maintained in such an atmosphere of harmony it will be possible to talk about the various aspects that pertain to reestablishing diplomatic links.

Notwithstanding, he indicated that the imminent resumption of diplomatic ties cannot be inferred from the remarks made in La Paz by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Rodrigo Diaz. In remarks to a Bolivian newspaper, Diaz said: "It is contradictory that the two countries do not have diplomatic relations," and said this situation "will not be maintained for long." [passage omitted]

Frei Meets Politicians, Entrepreneurs, Judges

PY1412201893 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Report by journalist Jose Miguel Alfaro from the Frei Foundation in Santiago]

[Text] Senator Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle has initiated a round of talks with the parties that make up the Coalition of Parties for Democracy. Leaders of the Party for Democracy [PPD], the Socialist Party [of Chile], the Center Alliance Party, and the Radical Party went to Frei's private office on Hindenburg Street.

We have prepared a report which begins with remarks by Senator Sergio Bitar, who was elected to represent the First Region. He views the government coalition's stance on the future cabinet issue.

[Begin recording] [Bitar, in progress] ... striving for Chile's modernization, with social justice.

[Alfaro] Political differences did not prevent enthusiastic greetings between PPD and National Renewal [RN] deputies and senators on Hindenburg Street.

During their meeting with the president-elect, the RN leaders proposed continuing the system of democratic agreements that was implemented during the government of President Aylwin so as to secure our country's political, economic, and social stability.

[RN leader Andres Allamand] We told the president-elect of our willingness to achieve a system of democratic agreements for progress. We offered him our cooperation on issues concerning state modernization, the struggle against poverty, joint efforts—with our cooperation—to tackle the required structural reforms in the fields of education, health, and justice, and our willingness to continue to cooperate on the security issue.

[Alfaro] Asked about the constitutional reforms proposed by the government coalition, Allamand said it is a debatable issue but there will be time to study it.

President-elect Eduardo Frei labeled this morning's meetings as positive, adding that he has not set a date to announce his cabinet. He was asked about his meeting with RN leaders:

[Frei] There are many issues of national interest to discuss in the next few months. We will remain in contact and work with them once I have announced my teams. I believe this is important because there are issues of common interest on which we can work. I am willing to do so and am very grateful to the RN leaders, as members of the opposition, who came to visit me. We hope to work together.

[Alfaro] The talks were interrupted by an unscheduled visit by the comptroller general, representatives of the Production and Trade Confederation, and the Supreme Court.

President-elect Eduardo Frei is now about to leave for the cemetery to visit the grave of his father, former President Eduardo Frei Montalva. [end recording]

Correction to Military Authorities Congratulate Frei

PY1412173693

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Military Authorities Congratulate Frei," published in the 14 December Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 38:

Column two, third paragraph, only sentence make read: ...[Reporter] But, general.... [Video shows Pinochet turning away from reporter and entering his car. Video then shows the other military commanders leaving Frei's house while reporter continues] Admiral Jorge Martinez... (providing explanatory editorial notation)

Colombia

Report Says U.S. Drug Concerns Threaten Relations

PA1512030493 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Dec 93

[From the "24 Hours" Newscast]

[Text] Although no one has admitted it publicly, this station has confirmed through DEA officials in Washington that there is deep concern in President Clinton's administration about reported direct contacts between Colombian Government members, including top officials and a presidential candidate, with Cali Cartel capos. Although they declined to name the officials involved, the U.S. Government sources said that the situation is disconcerting because it means that nothing will be done against the drug traffickers who, according to DEA, are responsible for 80 percent of the drugs that enters the United States.

The Cali cartel has infiltrated everything. Its power is so great that we have serious doubts that anything will be done against them. We expected that the capture of Pablo Escobar would mark the beginning of Colombian authorities' efforts against the Cali Cartel, but there are no clues that anything will happen. Apparently, Colombian authorities are waiting for cartel members to surrender and profit from all of the benefits granted by the new laws on crime, the sources said.

This situation, added to Prosecutor Gustavo de Greiff's proposal to legalize drugs, threatens the good diplomatic relations between the two countries. It was reported today that, on President Clinton's direct instructions, Morris D. Busby, U.S. ambassador to Colombia, has been told to talk the Colombian Government into taking an official and public stand regarding drug legalization.

Attorney General on Talks With Cali Cartel

PA1412173793

[Editorial Report] Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish at 1204 GMT on 14 December, during its "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast, broadcasts a live 19-minute telephone interview with Colombian Attorney General Dr. General Carlos Gustavo Arrieta by journalist Dario Arizmendi. The interview touches on a number of topics, including U.S. charges that Colombia's penal code is too lax in dealing with drug traffickers.

The interview begins by reviewing charges leveled by the Attorney General's Office against two Army officers and five noncommissioned officers in the deaths of Enrique Buendia and Ricardo Gonzalez, spokesmen for the Socialist Renewal Movement faction of the Army of National Liberation (ELN). Arrieta also is asked to discuss the current investigation of Ricardo Santamaria, former national peace adviser and the newly appointed ambassador to Cuba, for his indirect involvement in the deaths of the ELN members.

Arrieta says there are two points of view: one that the ELN members were killed in combat, the other that they were not. He says: "An investigation of events directly involving the deaths of these two gentlemen shows that they were not killed in combat. On the contrary, they were killed under circumstances that merit filing charges against the officers. Charges were filed after a very complex and difficult technical examination by the Attorney General's Office, the Legal Medicine Office, and the Prosecutor General's Office."

Arrieta goes on to explain that one of the men was wounded while walking and was then killed by a rifle shot at close range. The other man was thrown to the ground and shot in the nape of the neck. In response to Arizmendi's question of whether the killings constitute murder, Arrieta responds by saying they do.

Arizmendi then asks why Ambassador to Cuba Ricardo Santamaria and peace adviser Gonzalo Francisco have been linked to a murder perpetrated by soldiers. Arrieta answers by saying he wants to make it perfectly clear that neither man has been directly implicated in the murder.

Instead, he says, the Attorney General's Office has simply criticized their handling of the events leading up to the murders. "We feel," Arrieta says, "that had they taken greater precautions, the murders might not have taken place."

Arizmendi questions whether the accusations leveled against Santamaria will hinder his diplomatic mission in Cuba. Arrieta denies that it will, saying the inquiry should not affect his work as ambassador because he has only been asked to give an explanation.

Concerning the reaction of the defendants' superiors, Arrieta says they have worked with the authorities from the beginning, that they are aware of the entire investigation, and that they agree with the decisions that have been made thus far.

Arizmendi turns the discussion to the topic of negotiations between the Cali Cartel and the government. Arrieta explains that attorneys for the cartel have approached the Attorney General's Office to discuss the possible surrender of a number of cartel members. Arrieta note, however: "No specific agreement has been reached. Over the past few days the cartel's attorneys have met with us, and another meeting has been scheduled to determine whether we can ultimately work out something specific."

Arizmendi then asks Arrieta to respond to the position adopted by certain U.S. Government authorities, the U.S. ambassador to Colombia, and several U.S. senators regarding the laxity of Colombia's penal code.

Arrieta says: "The fact is that codes depend on the people who implement them. The current penal code contains a series of articles whose rigidity or laxity depends on those who implement them. The code itself is not a problem. The truth is that the code and policy it reflects is one of surrender and forgiveness, which is virtually a copy, or, rather, it parallels the U.S. plea-bargain system. The great challenge we face in response to specific actions and specific surrenders is to achieve, in each case, agreements that will not foster impunity in the country."

Arizmendi asks if there is any truth to comments by the U.S. news media that say drug traffickers are willing to surrender to legalize their huge fortunes in exchange for two or three years in jail. In response, Arrieta says it is very difficult to know specifically what the drug traffickers are after. He adds, "Individuals who perpetrate crimes must be responsible for them in a way that does not generate impunity or a feeling of impunity."

The interview ends with Arrieta commenting on the issue of legalizing drugs and whether or not this is the right time to discuss this issue in the United States. Arrieta says: "I do not believe the circumstances and the climate are right for a discussion of the legalization of drugs, because, among other things, exactly what such legalization would entail is not clear. What would we legalize? What type of products? What phases [words indistinct] from production to consumption? There are too many questions, and the truth is we do not know for sure what would happen if drugs were to be legalized. The problem may decrease, or it may worsen."

Arrieta goes on to say that at present there is not enough information available to establish whether or not legalization would be a solution. He adds that the nations hardest hit by the problem of illegal drugs should meet the challenge and fully investigate all alternatives. "To do otherwise," he said, "would be irresponsible."

Armed Forces Chief Appointed Acting Defense Minister

PA1412213993 Paris AFP in Spanish 2137 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 13 Dec (AFP)—Major General Ramon Emilio Gil Bermudez, Colombian Armed Forces commander in chief, was appointed acting defense minister by presidential decree today due to the illness of Minister Rafael Pardo, a civilian. Pardo, a 40-year-old economist who has held the post since August 1991, is recovering from emergency open heart surgery performed on 11 December.

Gaviria Hands Over Ports to Private Sector

PA1412180693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Report by Carlos Catano from Cartagena; from the "National" newscast]

[Text] President Cesar Gaviria has described the privatization of seaports as being a new challenge for the national economy. The president, who presided over a ceremony to transfer terminals to the Port Company of Cartagena [Sociedad Portuaria de Cartagena] this morning, said the new administrative body must now eradicate the image of corruption, inefficiency, and insecurity inherited from the old port model:

[Begin Gaviria recording] Fortunately, today we are handing over the ports of Cartagena, Santa Marta, and Barranquilla to port associations that feature the important participation of the private sector. With this act we want to put an end to what was one of the worst bottlenecks of our previous economic model. [end recording]

To make the port system more efficient, the government announced investments for more than $87 million at the terminals of Barranquilla, Santa Marta, and Cartagena.

Roundup of Economic Developments Through 14 Dec

PA1412201493

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Colombian economic developments monitored through 14 December. Source is cited in parentheses following each item.

Although the flow of foreign investment into the country declined in October by 43.2 percent, the overall accumulated annual rate is still above 1992 levels, without taking into account investments in the petroleum sector. Annual accumulated investment up until October 1992 was $277.4 million, while the figure for October 1993 was at $406.2 million. (Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 1 Dec 93 p 10B)

Colombia has been accepted as a full member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) organization, the Foreign Ministry reported on Monday. The fact that Colombia is an APEC member represents its insertion into the most important organization of Pacific Rim integration, according to an official communique. (Paris AFP in Spanish 0052 GMT 7 Dec 93)

The power companies yesterday launched a nationwide campaign aimed at saving approximately 10 percent of electricity worth some 80 billion pesos within the next six months. The energy minister said it was not a matter of saying there is no electricity, rather it is to use it wisely and thereby allow the government to reduce its subsidies to certain sectors. (Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 7 Dec 93 p 1B)

In an effort to limit the expansion of the money supply, control surplus cash, and avoid an increase in inflation, in December, the government will use excess cash in circulation to pay $150 million in advance toward debt maintained with international banks. (Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 10 Dec 93 p 1B)

Ecuador

Adjustment Measures To Follow Oil Price Drop

PA1412234193 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1725 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] Quito, 14 Dec (EFE)—An atmosphere of confusion, uncertainty, and criticism prevails in Ecuador in the wake of the announcement that the government will impose economic adjustment measures to soften the impact of the drop in the price of petroleum, the country's main export product and the source of half of the state's income.

The international price of Ecuadoran crude oil fell to less than $10 per barrel last week on the long term markets, where most of this country's oil is placed, whereas the state's budget for 1993 was based on an average price of $17 per barrel. It was expected that it would be priced at an average $15 for 1994.

Furthermore, the Ecuadoran State Petroleum Enterprise (Petroecuador) told EFE that prices maintain the tendency to drop, since today a barrel of crude from Ecuador is sold at close to $10 on the U.S. coast of the Gulf of Mexico and at only $9.49 on the U.S. Pacific coast.

According to government sources, the reduced prices will result in losses of $300 million to $400 million in 1994, thereby necessitating "internal sacrifices." Ecuador produces close to 350,000 barrels of crude per day and exports approximately 250,000 barrels.

The conservative administration of President Sixto Duran-Ballen announced last weekend that adjustment measures were inevitable, but it has not yet stated what those measures will be. This has prompted uncertainty, currency speculation, and strong criticism from the opposition.

The free rate for exchange of the dollar this week surpassed the official limit of 2,000 sucres, a level the Central Bank had been able to stay below over the last 15 months.

Ecuadoran Vice President Alberto Dahik, who is considered the ideologist of the government's neo-liberal policy, said on 12 December that "all Ecuadoreans, not just one sector, will have to pay for the crisis," and in this regard they are analyzing "a number of measures," which have not yet been decided upon.

According to the local press, the measures the government could adopt include increases in the price of some fuels, electricity and telephone rates, and a tax hike.

Ana Lucia Armijos, president of the Monetary Board, revealed that the government is studying the possibility of taxing the "extra" gasoline, which is the most expensive, and also of eliminating a portion of the subsidies on domestic gas, but she specified no amounts.

Many political and economic leaders have criticized the government for announcing an adjustment and not immediately stating the details. They ask that the measures be clarified quickly in order to avoid speculation. Representatives of the industrial sector said an increase in taxes and prices for fuel and basic services would finish off this country's productive sector.

Economic Package Awaited

PA1412235193 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2126 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] Quito, 14 Dec (NOTIMEX)—With trepidation and uncertainty, the Ecuadoran people today braced themselves for the announcement of the new economic measures to be taken to make up for the country's reduced revenues as the result of the drop in oil prices. A government source reported that President Sixto Duran-Ballen will announce on a radio and television network, probably tomorrow, the "measures" to be taken to deal with the budget crisis. The country's various sectors are anxiously awaiting the new economic package, the second since August 1992, when Duran-Ballen assumed office.

The package reportedly includes a temporary gasoline tax and the elimination of low-pressure or cooking gas subsidies, changes that the people flatly reject. Car owners have protested the temporary tax, which they feel

will raise the price of the premium gasoline used by more than 80 percent of the vehicles in the country.

Even before the economic adjustments have been announced, the prices of goods and services have started to go up significantly, residents of Quito and Guayaquil, Ecuador's largest cities, have reported. The government has reiterated its warning that merchants and people in general who stimulate and practice speculation to the population's detriment will be severely punished. Despite the authorities' good intentions, stock brokers have reported that just the announcement that the government was considering a new economic measures package provoked "nervousness" and instability in the stock market. Consequently, the dollar exchange rates have begun to rise. The rate exceeded the 2,000 sucres barrier several times this week. In Quito today, the rate was 1,980 sucres buying and 2,055 selling.

Former Democratic Left Party [ID] presidential candidate Raul Baca Carbo has harshly criticized the conservative government's decision to impose a new economic package. He accused Duran-Ballen's administration, which succeeded that of ID, of not being prepared to deal with emergencies and the critical situation created by the drastic drop in international oil prices. Baca Carbo said the government should resort to monetary reserves to make up for the reduced revenue caused by the oil price problem instead of "chastising" the population with new price increases and taxes. International monetary reserves exceed $1.2 billion, the highest in the country's history, according to Vice President Alberto Dahik, who highlights the amount as an important government achievement. The 1994 budget was prepared on the basis of an average price of $15 per barrel of oil. Fifty percent of the budget depends on oil exports, the country's leading foreign exchange source. The current drop in international oil prices will provoke a fiscal deficit, for which the government must compensate with other revenues.

Roundup of Economic Developments Through 14 Dec

PA1412222593

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Ecuadoran economic developments monitored through 14 Dec 93. Source is cited in parentheses following each item.

Ecuadoran Agriculture Minister Mariano Gonzalez on 11 December said that all banana plantations not yielding at least 800-1,000 20-kg boxes of bananas will be destroyed and that their owners will be compensated to assist them in raising other crops. This measure was adopted because of the high cost of spraying plantations plagued by black sigatoka. Those farmers who embrace this change will receive 200,000 sucres per hectare to grow other products. According to the Central Bank, the banana export revenues decreased from $490.3 million in 1992 to $357.8 million in 1993 for the January-October period. Ecuador is the largest banana exporter, but black sigatoka and the European restrictions have caused a drop in revenues. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Dec 93)

Paraguay

Controversial Colonel Named Assistant Senad Secretary

PY1412124993 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 14 Dec 93 p 6

[Text] Colonel Cirilo Ramon Velazquez, who was included in the stolen vehicles trafficking to Bolivia case, has been named by President Juan Carlos Wasmosy as assistant secretary general of the National Antidrug Secretariat (Senad), replacing Colonel Victor Anibal Lopez Gimenez. It must be recalled that Velazquez was mentioned in the charges about stolen vehicles being taken to Bolivia, made by Colonel Luis Catalino Gonzalez Rojas, and now Velazquez has been posted to the Senad through Decree No. 1502 signed by the chief of state. This posting was made on 7 December, but it was only officially made known on 13 December.

In the same decree, Wasmosy names Colonel Victor Aparicio Lugo Quintana as chief of Senad's Interception Group, replacing Colonel Eugenio Morel Garay, who has been named military attache in South Africa. The pertinent decree also has been signed by Interior Minister Carlos Podesta.

Peru

State of Emergency Extended 60 Days in Huanuco

PA1512043693 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] The Defense Ministry has extended the state of emergency 60 days, beginning today, in Huanuco Department, with the exception of Puerto Inca Province and Huacrachuco District.

The state of emergency has been extended to San Martin Department and Yurimaguas District in Alto Amazonas Province in Loreto region. Consequently, the constitutional guarantees dealing with personal freedom, inviolability of residence, and the right to meet peacefully without arms have been suspended. The Armed Forces will ensure internal order and reinforce the struggle against subversion until terrorism is defeated, according to the supreme decree published by EL PERUANO.

* Investigative Report Yields La Cantuta Revelations

* Executions Detailed

94SM0118A Lima SI in Spanish 2-7 Nov 93 pp 30-33, 68

[Article: "The Scene of the Crime"]

[Excerpt] At 0830 today, Tuesday, 2 November, SI Editor Ricardo Uceda will appear before the 16th Office of the Provincial Prosecutor General of Lima, Victor Cubas Villanueva. The purpose of his visit: to make available to the proper authorities for their verification information obtained by this periodical relating to the place where the La Cantuta University professor and nine students kidnapped early Saturday morning, 18 July 1992, were murdered and buried.

According to that information, the 10 missing persons from La Cantuta were executed at dawn on 18 July in a depression in the land used by the National Police as a shooting range. More precisely, the spot is found on the righthand side (facing Lima) of the Ramiro Priale Highway at kilometer marker 1.5. Another reference point is the La Atarjea Plant, located on the opposite side of the highway.

The 10 bodies were allegedly hastily buried in shallow graves on the secluded shooting range at the stroke of 0500. Day was just beginning to dawn over the executioners: 27 members of the Colina unit commanded by Major Santiago Martin Rivas, chief of operations, and the then Captain Carlos Pichilingue, administrative chief. There was not enough time to dig graves, and the troops were forced to return 48 hours later, on Monday night, 20 July, to complete the burial.

It should be noted that on this point, the sources of this information contradict a previous version reported by SI (in its 31 May-6 June 1993 edition, No. 326). According to that report, the missing persons from La Cantuta were taken, still alive, from a spot in Huachipa to the SIE (Army Intelligence Service) basement and later to the Commando School facility.

Last week, SI paid a visit to the spot, took extensive photos, and translated the detailed information received into a map. These elements will all be turned over to the 16th Office of the Provincial Prosecutor General in charge of the Cieneguilla graves. This is as it should be because, according to the prosecutor's investigation, the Quebrada de Chavilca (Cieneguilla) burial was actually the second. According to the information that is now to be verified, the bodies were originally buried at the shooting range on the Ramiro Priale Highway.

Our source has provided a number of specific details about what happened at dawn on 18 July 1992 at the scene alongside the Ramiro Priale Highway. The convoy of four vehicles carrying the Colina unit and the 10 La Cantuta kidnap victims stopped at kilometer marker 1.5 on the aforementioned highway at approximately 0430.

The four vehicles in the convoy included a white pickup truck with a double cab, a red pickup with a single cab, a third pickup, grey, also with a single cab, and a blue Toyota automobile with polarized windows. The vehicles came to a halt on the right side of the highway, facing Lima.

A brick wall on the same side of the highway and hugging the hillside one to a narrow entryway. Just a few meters after entering, one sees a rudimentary shooting range with its plaster signs and frames. A ravine measuring roughly 20 by 10 meters is the scene where one reliable source claims the kidnapping of the La Cantuta professor and nine students came to an end.

Their hands tied behind their backs, the kidnap victims were prodded to one side of the firing range and made to face the opposite slope. Behind each one of them was a soldier armed with an MP5 or an HK machine gun equipped with a silencer. The victims were forced to kneel down and in that position were executed.

The unit had been provided with shovels to dig graves, but the slippery, sandy ground foiled their efforts and, most importantly, they were running out of time. Dawn was approaching. The decision was made to bury the bodies in the irrigation channel on the northern side of the firing range, and it was done that day. The convoy began the return trip to Lima at 0515.

A patrol returned to the site the next day. Its report made Major Santiago Martin Rivas's hair stand on end. Blood stains could be seen in the irrigation channel and fingers poked through the ground. For all practical purposes, the site is abandoned, but panic spread through the group's officers.

The Colina unit returned to the scene on the Ramiro Priale Highway at 1900 on Monday, the 20th, armed with shovels, pickaxes, water and lime. Searching for solid ground, they finally dug three graves (see drawing [not reproduced]). Even Martin Rivas lent a hand!

Four bodies were placed in the largest grave, measuring 1 meter wide, 1.8 meters long, and 1 meter deep. Next, three bodies were buried in each of the other two graves. Thick layers of lime and sand separated the remains. Shoots were planted on each grave and abundantly watered so that they would take hold.

The victims were buried in their clothing. Their remains were left in the graves at the Ramiro Priale firing range for nine months, from July 1992 until April of this year. One fact reportedly motivated the commanding officer of the Colina group, Santiago Martin Rivas, to move the bodies to a different burial site.

At the CCD meeting on 2 April 1993, Henry Pease read a document from the "Sleeping Lion" claiming, among other things, that the missing persons from La Cantuta had been killed and buried at a detour on the highway to Huachipa. No further details were given, but that sole reference was enough to move Martin Rivas into action.

According to the information made available to SI, it was this circumstance that precipitated the transfer of the La Cantuta victims' remains from the Ramiro Priale site (where they had been placed in July 1992) to Cieneguilla graves in Quebrada de Chavilca. The second burial very likely took place in early April of this year.

handled by a group of Major Martin Rivas's most trusted soldiers, numbering no more than 10. [passage omitted]

* Disposal of Bodies

94SM0118B Lima SI in Spanish 8-14 Nov 93 pp 28-31

[Article: "This Is Where They Died"]

[Text] This week, reliable sources provided SI with more important details about how it was decided to kill the La Cantuta kidnap victims at dawn on 18 July 1992 and bury them—the first time—at the firing range on the Ramiro Priale Highway (at kilometer marker 1.5).

According to the special witness, at 0430 that Saturday morning, 18 July, before proceeding to the site where the professor and nine students were killed, Major Santiago Martin Rivas, commanding officer of the Colina unit, and his lieutenants engaged in a heated argument alongside the highway.

The Colina unit was organized into three detachments of nine men each. The leaders of these smaller units were Juan Supo, Jose Pino, and Juan Sosa. It was the latter who "got stubborn," as the informant put it, exploding when Martin Rivas ordered the men to get the spades out to dig holes, the source recalled, going on to reconstruct the following dialogue that took place that unforgettable night.

"We're going to dig holes," Martin Rivas reportedly ordered.

"What do you intend to do?" Sosa challenged.

"They've had it."

"But we don't have any such orders! We're going to the SIE, to the basement!"

"Just get the shovels out."

"But I was with Fico (Navarro) right up until the end and Fico said no such thing! What are we doing?"

"Just hurry up! Hurry up!"

"But Quique (Martin Rivas' nickname), we do not have any orders!"

"I said they have had it!"

It was already beginning to get light. Martin Rivas looked desperate. The commando hurried to the ravine or firing range, where the group of 10 captives was still standing: the professor ("El Gordo," as they called him), two girls, and seven young men, standing in a row with their hands tied and their heads bowed.

A few of the Colina soldiers proceeded to the other end of the field to the foot of a hill where sparse vegetation grew in the soft ground. They searched for a place to begin digging.

"Right there, get started!" Martin ordered.

"We can't; the dirt keeps caving in."

There was not enough time to make real graves, the source reported, telling how the group of 10 kidnap victims was forced on to a dry gully.

"Everybody down on your knees, right next to the ravine," they were ordered.

Behind each victim stood an executioner. The source believes that each one was shot at least twice. The next to the last one in line, a tall, thin kid with straight black hair, was the only one who tried to shout something like "Long live the revolution!"

Professor Hugo Munoz was the last to fall. When his turn came, he started to explain: "I did not expect..." was all he managed to get out when, the source reported, the unit's leader himself shot him.

The channel was not big enough to hold all of them, but that was where they were buried, laid in alternate directions. They were barely covered with dirt. Some appeared to be crouching.

The following day, a soldier dispatched from the Colina unit saw traces of blood in the trench and the feet of two of the victims protruding above the surface. SI was told that other witnesses observed this scene as well.

When Martin Rivas reported to Colonel Federico Navarro, the liaison between the Colina unit and DINTE [Army Intelligence Directorate], more than one witness heard the outburst that followed.

"But you know what my orders were!" was Navarro's rebuke.

"Well, they're dead now," Martin is said to have replied.

Forty-eight hours later, on Monday, 20 July, the unit returned to the Huachipa scene, this time with five bags of lime, pickaxes, shovels, and several cans of water. They went to get the bodies out of the trench and bury them in graves. The stench was overpowering.

Three graves were dug on the hillside. Four of the bodies were buried in the biggest one in the center, and three were placed in each of the other two. The bodies were "sandwiched" in, each one between two thick layers of lime. When the task was finished, the men took care to make the slope look as it had before so as to camouflage the graves. They even planted branches and weeds!

The bodies were allegedly transferred from Huachipa to Cieneguilla in April of this year. On 8 July, they were recovered for identification. They are being examined today in London.

Special Inquiry

At 1100 on Thursday morning, the 4th, upon returning from Lamas (Department of San Martin), Prosecutor

General Victor Cubas Villanueva proceeded to kilometer marker 1.5 on the Ramiro Priale Highway to conduct the special inquiry requested by SI Editor Ricardo Uceda Perez.

In its petition, SI asks the prosecutor to verify information stating that the 10 missing persons from La Cantuta were executed and initially buried at a spot in Huachipa, then moved to Cieneguilla (probably in April of this year).

The prosecutor's visit lasted from 1100 in the morning until 1530 in the afternoon. The area was cordoned off that same day and today, Monday, the 8th, a team of experts will make its studies, which will foreseeably include a search for the alleged graves and other evidence. The entire area has been under constant police surveillance.

The most important part of Thursday's inspection was the combing of the field, which turned up objects that might be highly useful. More specifically, they included decomposed buried garments: a blue shirt with what appeared to be bullet holes; a purple sweater with similar holes; a pair of black pants. The latter could become categorical evidence inasmuch as Criminal Investigations personnel found in a pocket a ticket stub showing part of a seal from La Cantuta University. Unfortunately, a relative had previously handled the same garment and extracted a similar ticket intact. The ticket was turned over to authorities, but the evidence had already lost much of its value.

Examiners also found a sheet of notebook graph paper with math problems on it (at least one of the missing persons was a math major). All garments and items were placed in sealed bags and turned over to Criminal Investigations for proper analysis.

Prosecutor Cubas was not only accompanied by police officials from Criminal Investigations and Homicide, but also by forensic pathologists from the Institute of Legal Medicine. An archeologist will join the team today for the excavating work.

The first inspection did in fact demonstrate that the inquiry requested by SI is serious and deserving of attention. In its petition filed with the 16th Office of Prosecutor General, SI also asks that Major Santiago Martin Rivas be summoned to rule out or confirm the information received and that any necessary fingerprints and blood, hair, and skin samples be taken from him for the proper comparisons.

Accumulation of Evidence

Reporting from the British capital last week, spokesmen for the Department of Forensic Science of London hinted that the results of DNA general compatibility studies might be forthcoming in the days ahead. However, a bulletin from the British Embassy in Lima dashed those hopes, noting that inasmuch as the tests were being done on calcined bone fragments, the extraction and ordering of DNA could take longer.

Whatever the case, even before these final results are known, the connection between the Cieneguilla graves and the missing persons from La Cantuta is virtually certain in the light of the results of analyses made for identification purposes, i.e., tests of keys and, this past week, of clothing by the 16th Office of Provincial Prosecutor General.

Civilian Jurisdiction

Last Friday, just after the test on clothing from Cieneguila turned out positive in the case of three missing relatives from La Cantuta, Prosecutor Victor Cubas Villanueva stated that the results "lead one to believe that the remains found at Cieneguilla belong to the students and professor who disappeared from La Cantuta University. Consequently, the next step will be to identify the authors of the abominable collective crime and to file formal charges before the courts."

For her part, the nation's prosecutor general, Blanca Nelida Colan, told the daily newspaper EL COMERCIO on Wednesday, the 3d, that "The Ministry of Justice will begin its investigation in order to identify the authors of the deed (the La Cantuta missing persons) because no longer are we confronted with a possibility, but an actual act that has been committed. It is a case like any other and we shall therefore bring charges in the courts."

This marks a complete shift in terms of jurisdictions.

[Box, p 30]

Volunteers Sought

The members of the Colina unit were reportedly tempted by the offer of a juicy reward aimed at enticing four of them to take the blame for the La Cantuta and Barrios Altos outrages.

On Saturday, 10 July of this year, two days after the Cieneguilla graves were discovered, the SIE (Army Intelligence Service) special operations group, better known as the Colina unit, was invited to a friendly luncheon where an unusual request was made.

The gathering began at 1400 at one of the restaurants near the Municipal Park in the old Barranco district, one reliable source told SI.

Almost all of the 27 members of the Colina unit attended except for "Petete" and "Rambo," on assignment in the provinces. A fax had been sent to them, but there was a foul-up.

Seated in prominent places that afternoon in Barranca were Major Santiago Martin Rivas, Colina's chief of operations, and Major Carlos Pichilingue Guevara, administrative chief.

Presiding over the table, in keeping with his rank, was General Juan Rivero Lazo, former head of DINTE (Army Intelligence Directorate), who had made a special trip from Iquilos, where he was serving as inspector of Military Region V.

Inasmuch as Rivero Lazo is a general who enjoys considerable prestige, particularly in DINTE, it is quite possible that this is one of the reasons he was entrusted with the mission that he was quick to carry out.

The source reports that after the introductory toasts, Rivero Lazo recalled that he was chief of DINTE when the Barrios Altos and La Cantuta events occurred. This explained why, he said, everyone was aiming at him, undoubtedly a reference to the inclusion of his name in the complaints concerning those cases.

He soon got down to "brass tacks," adding one observation and then making his proposal. The general asked four volunteers from the group to come forward spontaneously, willing to sacrifice themselves for the sake of the institution's prestige.

The four volunteers would take the blame for the Barrios Altos and La Cantuta killings. They would also have to say they acted on their own, claiming they did so fully convinced that the persons killed were proven members of the Shining Path.

They would have to maintain that they were motivated by a desire for revenge, in the case of Barrios Altos, because they were sure that those attending the rally were members of the People's Help machine and the Shining Path's Metropolitan Committee. In the case of La Cantuta, they would have to declare they acted because their intelligence reports indicated that Shining Path elements from that university participated in the Calle Tarata attack in Miraflores.

A third common motive was also suggested to them: the ambush of the SIE bus in San Martin de Porres in which technician Romani and noncommissioned officer Quinonez were killed. Another noncommissioned officer, Mejia, was blinded and had to have a leg amputated.

According to the information obtained by SI, as soon as the General had finished speaking, Major Martin Rivas stood up.

"I want to be one of the volunteers," he reportedly said.

"No, you have a great future in the Army," the General is said to have responded, rejecting Martin's offer.

The appeal for volunteers was repeated more than once, but in vain. No positive response was forthcoming and most of the men looked at one another stunned.

At this point, the source reported, Carlos Pichilingue stood up and said they needed only three volunteers because they in fact already had one: Petete. He argued that the technician had already been "burned" since the media had singled him out as one of the ones who had treated the missing persons most brutally.

Nor would the volunteers do so for free. The following reward would be offered: $1,000 a month (for how long was not specified); five years' housing free in Villa Matellini; a gift of personal weapons for self-defense; only six months of actual prison time; leave to go home on Saturdays and Sundays; and later (probably after Fujimori's reelection), discharge from the service somewhere abroad and financial compensation.

Despite the seductive offer, no volunteers came forth. Martin Rivas was instructed to draw up a list.

The "scapegoat" spectre hangs over the Colina unit.

* Other Graves Found

94SM0118C Lima SI in Spanish 15-21 Nov 93 pp 26-29, 52

[Article: "Report Proved"]

[Text] *The prosecutor's investigation finds a grave containing human remains at a spot in Huachipa, named by SI as the scene of the execution and first burial ground of the 10 missing persons from La Cantuta.*

A decisive step in the prosecutor's investigation into the Cieneguilla graves and the case of the La Cantuta missing persons was taken on Friday and Saturday, the 12th and 13th.

It happened in Huachipa in the underbrush surrounding the National Police firing range located at kilometer marker 1.5 on the Ramiro Priale Highway.

A search of the area resulted in the discovery of a grave containing human remains and bones and other items from a probable burial described below.

The discovery was the result of a week of patient investigative work by the head of the 16th Office of the Provincial Prosecutor General, Victor Cubas Villanueva, and his deputy prosecutors. The team also relied on the special assistance of archeologist and anthropologist Hilda Vidal Vidal from the Museum of Archeology and Anthropology, experts from the Institute of Legal Medicine of the Lima Morgue, and the Criminal Investigations Division of the Technical Police.

The latter two institutions: the Lima Morgue and the Criminal Investigations Division, kept the samples collected for their respective analyses. By the time SI reporters left the scene at 1430 on Saturday afternoon, archeologist Vidal had recorded 59 samples of remains.

On both Friday and Saturday, the 12th and 13th, work began at about 0900 and continued until 1530 in the afternoon.

The discovery of the Huachipa grave containing small fragments of human bones (mostly from feet and hands) and large amounts of lime virtually confirm the story

given by the editor of SI to the 16th Office of the Provincial Prosecutor General for verification. According to the report, it was at this spot in Huachipa that the La Cantuta professor and nine students kidnapped on 18 July 1992 were executed and buried.

According to information obtained by SI from a reliable source, at dawn on that day, the 10 missing persons from La Cantuta were hastily buried in shallow graves in a channel running alongside the firing range. Forty-eight hours later, on Monday night, 20 July, the executioners (the so-called Colina unit, under the command of Major Santiago Martin Rivas), were forced to return to the scene of the crime to do their work over and bury the bodies in three graves located almost at the foot of the slopes surrounding the firing range.

It was reportedly one of these graves that the prosecutors, archeologists, and experts found on Friday, the 12th.

Work began on Friday, the 12th, with more precise information obtained by SI concerning the likely location of the graves. As a result, the area in the far northern section of the firing range was abandoned—nothing had been found since Thursday, the 4th—and the search focused on the eastern zone near the slopes, dotted with sparse desert vegetation.

It was at a precise spot in this area that, around noon, one of the workers, obeying Dr. Hilda Vidal's indications, stuck the iron reinforcing bar in the ground, using it as a probe. The soil gave way and the rod went in easily, a sign that the dirt in this area had been disturbed. From that point on and for as long as the search continued, all excavating concentrated on this spot.

At 1215, Prosecutor Victor Cubas Villanueva joined in and headed the search, aided by Deputy Prosecutor Jose Narro.

At 1255, the appearance of traces of lime only a few centimeters down alerted the team. According to the version obtained by SI, the Colina unit had arrived at the spot on Monday, 20 July 1992, equipped with five bags of lime so that they could bury the bodies between layers of the white mineral. Lime is used for these tasks because of its triple effect: as a disinfectant, an astringent (eliminating foul odors), and a corrosive agent (destroying cloth and damaging or eating away at bone, although not completely).

At a depth of only a few centimeters, the slow, horizontal probing characteristic of such excavations ran into a block of natural rock weighing approximately 60 kilos and of the same type as that on the slopes. A pickax was used to move it. Then came the surprises.

Before work proceeded any further, an area measuring roughly 4.4 by 2.2 meters was cordoned off, and the excavation continued in a rectangular area measuring approximately 1 X 1.8 meters.

The first thing sighted under the rock was fragments of a plastic plate, not a bag, but a sheet. The experts exercised great care in picking it up so as not to break it into pieces. The use to which it had been put remained a mystery.

Forty centimeters down, another element that caught the experts' attention was a layer of moist earth which they deemed worthy of analysis and from which they took laboratory samples.

In connection with these samples, it should be recalled that sandy soil not characteristic of the area was still clinging to some of the remains from Cieneguilla. The samples will have to be compared with those taken from the Huachipa grave.

The discovery of human bone shards was preceded by an anecdotal incident. An impressively large spider suddenly appeared, causing a very surprised Deputy Prosecutor Narro to exclaim, "Kill it!" Archeologist Hilda Vidal, who was much closer to the arachnid, replied, "Do not kill it," going on to explain to the incredulous, stunned prosecutor: "It will not hurt you."

The first presumably human bone found in the Huachipa grave was an occipital fragment with the mastoid apophysis attached. The experts were initially dubious, thinking it might be from an animal. However, the succession of obviously human bone fragments—over 20 samples (see box [not reproduced])—that began to appear at this depth (over 40 centimeters) dispelled all doubt.

More Evidence

In addition to human remains, the experts extracted other items from the Huachipa grave which they would send for analysis by crime labs and the Lima Morgue. Among the most important were: a piece of lime covered with human hair (sample 20); a bullet (sample 18) pulled from a depth of 1 meter that had become attached to the point of the iron bar used to probe the disturbed earth; a shoe tongue made of synthetic material like those used to manufacture military shoes (sample 21); a clot measuring 7 cms in length that broke up as it was being put into a recipient. Lab technicians will determine whether or not it is a blood clot. Blood will keep in this state for over a year.

Larger Area Cordoned Off

When the search ended on Friday, the 12th, Provincial Prosecutor Victor Cubas Villanueva ordered roughly 50 percent of the area adjacent to the firing range cordoned off. Last week, the Supreme Council of Military Justice excavated part of the zone, which has now been declared off limits. It will remain under round-the-clock police surveillance provided by officers from El Agustino.

Venezuela

Caldera Speaks at Electoral Council Ceremony

PA1512034793 Caracas Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 2222 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Speech by President-elect Rafael Caldera during a ceremony to declare him the official winner of the 1993 presidential elections at the Supreme Electoral Council auditorium in Caracas—live]

[Text] Mr. President; Mr. Congress President; Mr. Chief Justice; Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] President and other CSE Members; Mr. Prosecutor General; Mr. Judiciary Council Representative; Vice Admiral Wolfgang Larrazabal, former president of the junta government; Messrs. Cabinet Members; Mr. Federal District Governor; Mr. Comptroller General; Your Excellencies Auxiliary Bishops of the Caracas Archdiocese; Your Excellency Apostolic Nuncio and Dean of the diplomatic corps; Generals, division generals, and vice admirals of the top military command; Libertador Municipality Mayor; Messrs. Presidents and Secretaries General of political parties; Mr. Fedecamaras [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry] President; Mr. President of the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers; Mr. President of the Central University of Venezuela; Messrs. Representatives of radio, television, and printed media; Mr. President of the For Venezuela Foundation; Officer Members of the seventh Republic Plan; Distinguished Special Guests; Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am fully aware of the grave albeit honorable responsibility that the people of Venezuela have placed on my shoulders with their decision at the polls on 5 December. During the course of my electoral campaign, I pointed to the crisis the country is experiencing, which has become a moral, social, and political crisis. To be sure, we must add to this, as a cause for the utmost concern owing to its importance in practical terms, the fiscal crisis that we currently face due to the difficult situation that now exists in the oil market.

The fiscal crisis forces me to announce a government of austerity, which must begin by cutting unnecessary public expenditures, or at least by reducing nonessential fiscal expenses. To some extent, this could help raise the people's morale and help them realize that austerity is everyone's duty. I intend to start by reducing the expenses of Miraflores Palace and its dependencies [applause], as well as the discretionary fund [applause], which I believe must be trimmed to the barest minimum for the state's proper operation.

I am faced with a truly difficult situation, and upon accepting the CSE president's proclamation that I have been elected president, it is my obligation to tell all Venezuelans that we will face a difficult situation, but we will do it with great courage, commitment, patriotism, and a decision inspired by justice that always seeks an equitable distribution of the benefits and burdens of the country's economic life among the various sectors so, as Pope John Paul II said, the needy do not have bear, as often happens, the brunt of the consequences of economic adjustment. [applause]

I have a lot of faith in the country. I have that faith because the Venezuelan people's behavior has been exemplary and because the Venezuelan people were assisted by the National Armed Forces, as part of their institutional duty, in demonstrating to the world that they do know how to and want to live in democracy; that they do know how to and want to value the liberties and human rights gained through a long struggle; and that they are perfectly convinced that their problems and difficulties—no matter how harsh—must be solved and will be solved within the framework of the democratic system, which the Venezuelan people chose in a definite manner to demonstrate to the world that they have the right to live in a humane manner without being subjected to forceful dispositions.

I have faith in this difficult task opening up before my eyes, and as President Ramon Jose Velasquez said, this is the beginning of a new political era. We will not go back on that new political era. We will give it all the necessary support from a young generation that expects to arrive at the beginning of a new epoch on the eve of the 21st century of the Christian era with .notions intact and high hopes.

I have a great deal of hope for the Venezuelan people. The elections in which I was fortunate enough to have a unanimously recognized victory have represented another process with a number of modifications, some of which yielded some very happy results, and others the difficulties inherent to the lack of experience with their implementation.

I trust and firmly hope that the CSE will vigorously and decisively accept any observation made about the results reported for the national vote counts and that, in accordance with the law, it will provide all possible help so there are no doubts about the vote count, including the vote recount in places where there are difficulties in this regard. [applause]

The Venezuelan people must recognize the huge effort made by the CSE, its corps of assistants and employees, the electoral organizations that depend on it throughout the Republic, and the citizens who served at the voting tables on election day. The people must also recognize the effort of the National Armed Forces, through the Republic Plan, to see that the elections were carried out without stains of any sort, without obstacles of any kind. It was a demonstration, as I mentioned earlier, that has uplifted Venezuela's image, which was a little marred by the serious events of the last few years.

For that very reason, I am convinced that the Venezuelan people also deserve a clear explanation, and the CSE will render yet another service to Venezuela by dissipating all doubts in those cases in which there are any proposals that may be difficult for the public in general to accept.

I want to govern with the people's heart. I want to seek harmony among Venezuelans. I want to work for the safety of the homes, the lives, and the properties of all citizens of the Republic. I want to make an effort to attain the greatest accordance, the greatest harmony, the sum of all efforts, because the country's difficult situation cannot be solved by a single group or through the effort of one magistrate. It requires the active, efficient, and positive cooperation of all sectors. I especially want to encourage the diverse organizations, the diverse sectors that form civilian society so that, in a harmonious and efficacious manner, they will cooperate with the public sector to confront and solve problems.

The main objective of all Venezuelans now is to achieve stability: institutional stability, social stability, labor peace, and peace in all its aspects. We have a fundamental duty to work for that objective. I did not make nor should I now make as president-elect demagogic promises and offers that cannot be fulfilled. The basic promise I must make is to work and seek the cooperation of the best people, the most honest people, and the most qualified people. It must be done without establishing internal divisions, without erecting walls in our society at a time when contemporary history has been characterized by the collapse of the Berlin Wall, the symbol of all those ideological walls erected by force that were unforgivably separating large sectors of humankind in accordance with beliefs and positions. I think we can achieve a great national unity on the basis of the spiritual values that have been the essence of our nationality, the firm and passionate defense of all that is ours, and the firm and passionate desire to achieve understanding, reconciliation, and cooperation among all Venezuelans, no matter how severe the past or present differences that might separate us.

The people who elected me president of the Republic designated me the guardian of hope. I want to fulfill that role with the greatest devotion, interest, and affection. Hope is a fragile plant that was dry and that had practically ceased to exist in Venezuela. It has been reborn almost miraculously due to the great action of all Venezuelans on 5 December. It is my duty to care for that plant; to cultivate it, water it, defend it, and protect it so, through hope, we can truly overcome the obstacles that separate us from a future of economic and social development, well-being for everyone, and social justice.

It has been the people's will, aided by that mysterious presence of God in history that we call Providence, about which Pope John Paul II has spoken. [sentence as heard] We are going to stimulate that mysterious presence of God in history, recognize it, and give thanks to it. We are going to stimulate the people's conduct, which has deserved the recognition of not only the observers of this hemisphere but of all the world's countries.

It is our duty to support the government of Jose Ramon Velasquez so it will culminate its historic mission. That historic mission will be fully concluded the day when power is turned over to the new government that emerges from the people's will, as expressed in the 5 December elections. I think we are at an auspicious moment to open horizons, to have hopes, to dream about a better future. These dreams have motivated Venezuelans throughout every situation of conflict. Venezuela has been equal to the task when faced with great difficulties in its history. That willingness to face the situation and that availability of invaluable human resources in our country make us have faith and confidence that the new political times beginning in Venezuela will be marked by excellence, harmony, understanding, and unity so we can really view with happiness and enthusiasm the arrival of the year 2000. The people are the builders of this reality, which today unites us, which fills us with deep interest in the future, and which forces us to make a courageous and resolute effort to resolve our most serious problems.

I hope to have the people's understanding, will, and support, without which the government I will head would find it impossible to fulfill its fundamental duty. Its fundamental duty is to make hopes a reality, to return to new generations their confidence in their country, and to return to Venezuela its confidence in itself, in its leaders, and in this complex but harmonious and wonderful society that makes up our nation.

For all the social sectors, for the sectors of civilian society, for the members of the public sector, for the national armed forces, for the teachers, for the students, for the youths, for farmers, for workers, for businessmen, for the foreigners who with us contribute to raise the country's morale and to produce wealth and goods that should result in happiness and well-being for all Venezuelans, for everyone, my most cordial, affectionate, and emotional greeting. I am living a unique moment in my life. I thank divine Providence for having given me this opportunity, and I ask it to help me do my job as the country expects, to serve it with honesty, righteousness, care, austerity, deep sincerity, with full communication with the people, and with the people's heart. As I said before, this is the fundamental instrument the government must use at a time when the electoral results point to a different political situation that in some aspects is confusing and which must be overcome through a great national consensus. Such a consensus must really offer everyone a firm basis to develop their activities, to defend their positions, to wage a democratic struggle without fear of traps that might affect such a struggle. Therefore, I issue everyone a call to cordiality and to the joy of Christmas, which began in such a marvelous way with the 5 December elections. The elections have opened to us an auspicious path. We are confident that the task that the Venezuelan people have entrusted to us will be carried forward with the support, cooperation, and understanding of the people to make Venezuela the optimistic, dynamic, and progressive country that it has been at the best times in its history. Thank you very much. [applause]

FAN Communique Rejects Tampering Allegations

PA1512044493 Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 14 Dec p 27

[Text] Vice Admiral Radames Munoz Leon, minister of defense, issued a communique rejecting accusations that the FAN [National Armed Forces] manipulated the election material placed in its custody during the 5 December elections.

The Armed Forces has been accused of withholding ballot boxes and throwing ballots in garbage cans throughout the metropolitan area. The text of the communique is as follows:

"In view of the serious accusation against the FAN, which have been made public through the media, the Defense Ministry would like to inform the Venezuelan people of the following:

1. We categorically reject the accusations of alleged manipulation with clearly illegal intent of the election material entrusted to the FAN as part of the implementation of the Republic Plan VII.

2. Considering that investigations into the case are already under the jurisdiction of the competent authorities, the Defense Ministry reiterates its disposition to offer full cooperation. At the same time, the Defense Ministry wishes to reaffirm the Armed Forces's conduct as guarantor of the state of law and the democratic system and its institutions and confirms the efficiency and honorability of the activities carried out by the personnel in charge of Republic Plan VII."